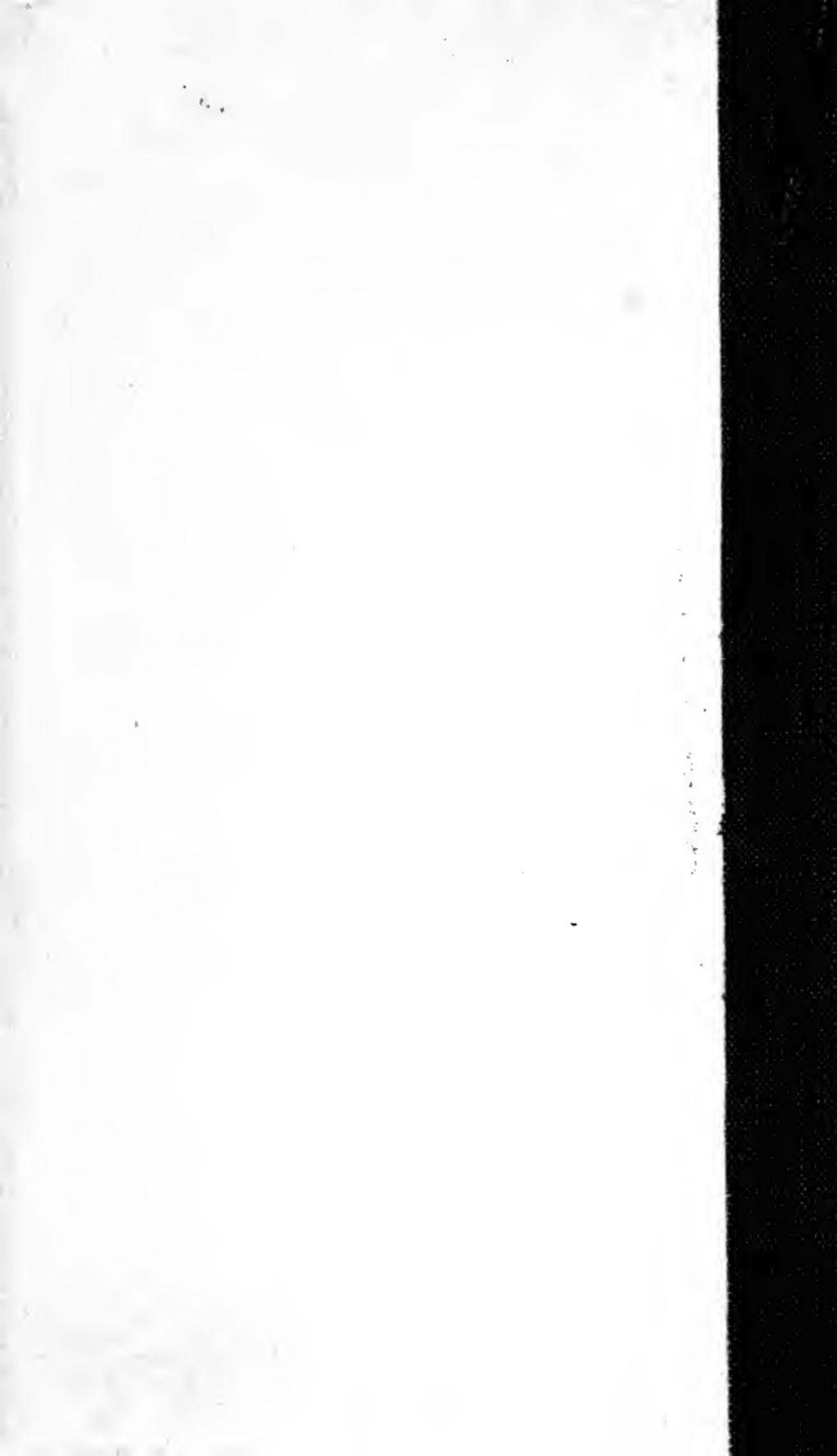
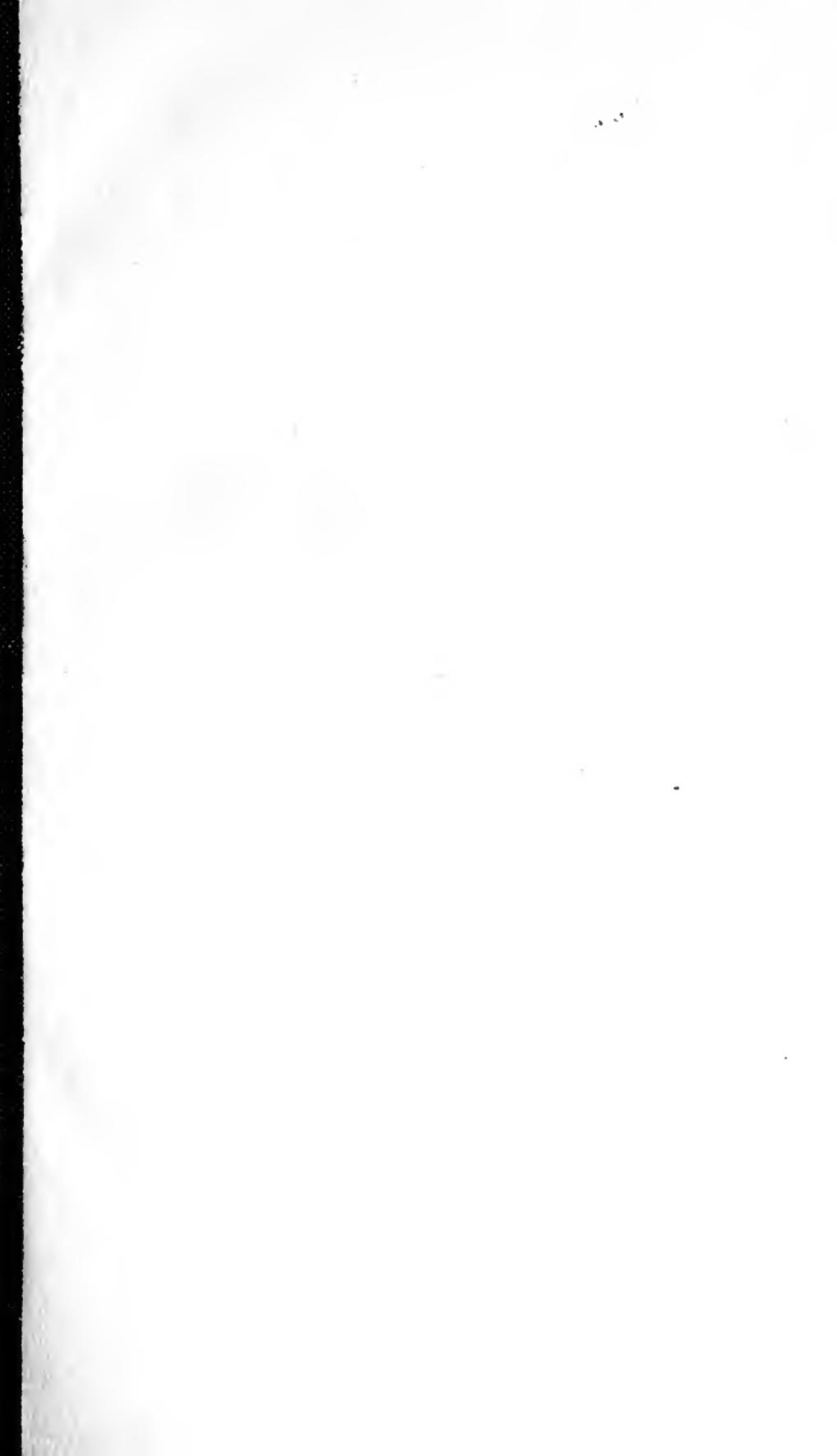




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# THE HISTORY O F R U P T U R E S, A N D R U P T U R E - C U R E R S, &c.

Wherein BOTH are Thoroughly and Impartially CONSIDER'D.

## O C C A S I O N ' D

By a LETTER from a Physician at *Paris*,  
to a Physician at *London*, concerning a New, and  
Never-failing Way of Curing all Sorts of *Ruptures*  
in Men, Women and Children, by an Infallible  
REMEDY,

## A S E C R E T.

WITH A GENUINE

RECEIPT of the Whole SECRET, Part of  
which was lately SOLD for an Immense Sum of  
Money, &c. &c. &c.

AS ALSO OF A

## Famous STIPTICK,

BOTH laid open for the Satisfaction of the  
Curious, and Benefit of the Publick.

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By R. H. M. D. F. R. S.

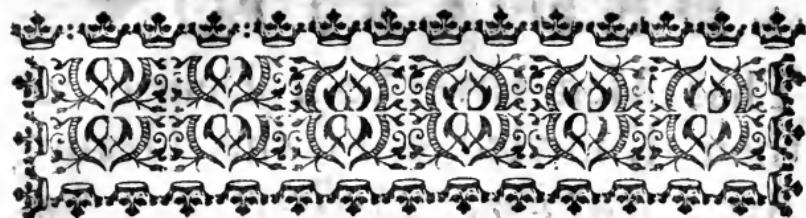
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*Venient jam similes Impostores, curandique Viam facillimam  
& novam, Remedia Securissima, experientia certa, artem  
brevem, ac Uberrimam Doctrinam pollicentur. Geiger..*

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LONDON: Printed for George Strahan, over against  
the Royal-Exchange. 1726.

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TO  
Sir HANS SLOANE, Bart.  
PRESIDENT of the COLLEGE of  
PHYSICIANS of LONDON,  
PHYSICIAN-GENERAL to the  
ARMY,  
And VICE-PRESIDENT of the  
ROYAL-SOCIETY.

HAT Desire of Knowledge, which is peculiar to a Rational Being, is also as certainly the most Noble Exertion of his Reason. Neither is it so Extraordinary, what *Quintilian* tells us,

A 2 That

# DEDICATION.

That Men have been Deified for their Knowledge in the Healing Art ; *Medicinæ Auctores ante omnia accepimus Deos*, since no Power appears more God-like, than that of Easing Pain, and Relieving our Fellow Creatures from their Diseases ; *Deus est mortali juvare mortalem*, Plin. Neither is this Power to be attain'd, but by unwearied Application, acute Judgment, and great Experience.

Yet there have not been wanting Men, who starting up in several Ages and Countries, have mimick'd, like Monkies, a Skill they were naturally unfit for, and who, supplying the Deficiency of Art, with a Super-Abundance of Presumption, have by one Trick or other, not liv'd without their Admirers.

The simple Part of Mankind, discerning only the Tinsel, are caught by every Thing, that's but call'd new, and without dipping further

# DEDICATION.

further, are satisfied with the Appearance of Truth ; for being ignorant in Matters of Physick, they mistake Noise for Learning, and the greatest Doctor with 'em, is the most impudent Undertaker.

But however Pretence may have Power over the Vulgar, the Learn'd, and better Part of the World, have no Taste but for Truth : The Love of Truth, for Truth's Sake, is the great Characteristick, by which all good and generous Minds are distinguish'd.

In some Countries, where Men dare not vent their Thoughts (tho' nothing but a Man's Thoughts can properly be call'd his own) Truth may pass with such a Disguise, as Authority imposes on her ; but here, where Freedom in Speaking and Writing, is the noblest Effect of our Liberty, we may inquire after her without Danger, and are indulg'd the full Use of our Reason,

# DEDICATION.

son, which surely, we can never employ better, than when we see the Publick deceiv'd by bold Pretences to *New*, and extraordinary Discoveries, unheard of and infallible Remedies, and cures next to Miracles.

It cannot therefore, be a Crime to lay open to the World, the Effects of our Inquiry; and since I am embark'd in the Cause of Truth, my Design, *Sir*, seems to intitle me to your Patronage and Protection. Your strict and constant Regard for that great Virtue, your warm and zealous Concern for the Honour of the Healing Faculty, are Motives sufficient to make a Duty of that Inclination, which obliges me, to address to you, the little I have been capable of advancing.

With how sincere, and how just a Delight, cou'd I enumerate those Virtues, which illustrate your Character,

# DEDICATION.

racter, and do Honour to our Country, in the Fame, they have procur'd you, were not my Incapacity to speak of you with half the Warmth, that I think of you with, an Impediment in my Way, almost as Obstructive, as my Fear of offending your Modesty.

However, I please my self with a Consciousness, that you are known for the great and good Man you are, though I am not able to describe you. And I shall have the Concurrence of the whole Learn'd World, that you are the most proper Patron, of a Treatise, which concerns a Science, you preside over, as well by Knowledge, as by Dignity. And though your Merit can receive no Acceßion from my Praise, yet your Goodness will permit me the Respects of my Gratitude.

I cannot therefore neglect such an Opportunity as this, just to point

# DEDICATION.

point out to the World, a few Observations, which being real Matters of Fact, and within my proper Knowledge, the mentioning of 'em here, can never be strain'd so low, as to the Imputation of Flattery, because your Virtues have made that, more difficult than any Task I cou'd assign my self.

Your Indefatigable Application to the Study of Nature, your Immense Labour and Expence, in amassing the most curious, and most valuable Collection that ever any one private Man cou'd boast of, demonstrate the Fruits of your Industry, to proceed from a true Spirit of Philosophy, and Patience, so necessary for observing, all the nice Particularities of such, and so great Variety of Animals, and their Parts. Of Vegetables, and other Rarities, with ~~the~~ the Noble and Generous Intention of widening our Paths into Nature.

How

# DEDICATION.

How often have I been Eye-Witness to your good Actions ! But your Charitable Advice to the Poor, so obvious to all, who pass your Doors in a Morning, is at once an Indication of your Generous Disposition, and a lively Instance of that singular Delight, you take in the Practice of your Profession. It is Matter of Surprize, that one of your vast Practice, can have Time for Avocations, yet when others, to relax their Minds, fly from Business to the Bottle, &c: your Diversion is a fresh Inquisition for the Service of the Publick, among those your rare and extraordinary Productions of Nature, brought to you (as once to Aristotle) from all Corners of the Universe ; with this only Difference, that what that Prince of Philosophy obtain'd from the Purse, and Power of the greatest Monarch of the World, you receive

a from

# DEDICATION.

from the Influence of your own  
Expence and Directions.

Happy and Important Amusement! When Men so bless'd with Genius and with Application, are also liberal for the Publick Good, and spare no Cost to purchase what will promote useful Knowledge! If these Excellent, and almost Invaluable Curiosities, are preserv'd but with half the Care, they were collected with, your Name and Memory, will continue fresh, and excite Emulation for the Benefit of Mankind, down to latest Posterity.

If all these other Qualities, beneficent Heaven has inrich'd you with, and which render you so much the Admiration of all good Men. If a Genius so unlimited with Capacity, so fully proportion'd, and join'd to so diligent and patient a Thirst after Knowledge of NATURE.

If

# DEDICATION.

If a healthy vigorous Constitution, preserv'd by a regular, prudent Conduct in every Step of Life. If a Will to do good, enrich'd and impower'd by an uninterrupted Conversation with the Learned here, or Correspondence with the most distinguish'd Men abroad, whose Eyes discover Beauties hid from the greatest Part of the World, and with Pleasure communicate 'em to Spirits of their own noble Turn. If all these excellent Endowments, were to give Measure to your Life, as they are, the illustrious Amusements of it. What a Depth of unrun Sands wou'd yet be left to flow for the Delight and Benefit of your Cotemporaries !

If the Mite I have presum'd to throw in, towards Vindication of Truth, and the Honour of the Healing Faculty, shou'd have the Happiness to prove acceptable to  
a 2 You,

# DEDICATION.

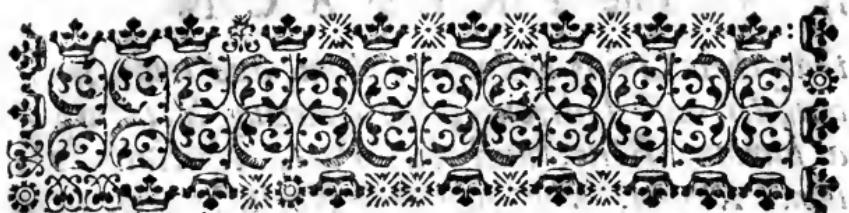
You, and a few candid Judgments :  
I am little Sollicitous, what others  
shall think of my Performance.  
Such an Approbation as Yours, will  
more than recompence my Endeavours,  
and disarm the Malice of Ignorance.

I am,

SIR,

Your most Humble Servant,

Robert Houstoun.



# THE PREFACE.

IT is scarce more generally known, that Diseases are inseparable from Human Nature, than that none are more frequent and more early than Ruptures.

Authors abound with Instances of ruptur'd Children, among whom some are born ruptur'd. The most experienc'd Valescus de Taranta, l. 26. c. 8. tells us, he had seen Ruptures Hereditary for three Generations. Hildan and Wierus say, Ruptures are propagated from Parents to Children, Ob. 73. Cent. 6. Lib. 4. c. 20. — Cornelius John Flander (as Forestus says) had several born ruptur'd in his own Family, all whom he cur'd with Powder of Earthworms, and an Oxycroceum Plaister with great ease.

— I have my self seen several, and some I have brought into the World, one with a Hernia Ventralis, and several with Hydrocele's.

This will appear strange to such as are not conversant with Children's Diseases. But it is no more strange than true. Children are no sooner born,

## The P R E F A C E.

than their Crying endangers them, and truly, if we consider with Diligence, the amazing Structure of a humane Body, and that Part, especially, the lower Region, most subject to Ruptures; we need no more be surpriz'd to see the Navel, Groin, or Cod of Infants tumified, than at the sudden Disappearance, by so easy a Cure, as a common Swath, and the Nurses Care only, for if their Laxity, Tenderness and natural Humidity be well weigh'd with the Weakness of these Parts, it will be no Cause of Wonder, that Gripes (so familiar to Children) shou'd occasion Pain, Pain provoke Crying, and Crying force out the Intestine at any of these Places. Especially at the Navel, for that (through want of Skill in tying the Navel String) being left open, easily gives Way to the Gut, &c.

Hence, for Want of a right Notion of the Structure of these Parts, all Strangers to anatomical Dissections, are amaz'd at the Bulk of a scrotal Rupture in some Children, and still more, when that Bulk subsides, which is often the Case, the Moment the Child lies on his Back, by the Intestine returning to its Place within the Cavity; Where, retaining it when up, perfects the Cure, As all Authors mention, and all who practise, must own. Forestus tells us plainly, *Pueri a Rupturâ facile sp̄e sponte Curantur* pag. 175. Children are easily cur'd often without help.

Yet, in Bodies more hard and advanc'd in Years, especially in old inveterate complicated Ruptures in bad Habits, no Cure is more difficult and troublesome: Nay, they are often incurable: But Persons unacquainted with such Things, seeing a Child cur'd of a Rupture, which is no more (as above) than is daily perform'd by Nurses and Truss-

Truss-Makers, are very apt to be imposed on, and by hearing Trifles craftily magnified, believe a long Train of Mountebank Boastings, and conclude they can cure all Ruptures as easily.

These bold Undertakers, before their Secret was known, had Room, at least, tho' not Reason, for boasting; but now any Reader sees their utmost Abilities, and may do as much as they can.

As a just Notion of the Parts seems necessary to one, who wou'd understand the Nature of Ruptures: I shall offer a short Description, that their Causes, and the Reason of their Cure, may be made the more evident.

The Peritonæum, which Hippocrates *7 Epid. mesovaria*, in the Plural Number, is every where double, call'd by the Arabians, Siphach, is a Membrane dispos'd in form of a Bag, which encloses all the Parts of the lower Belly. It is prolong'd at the Umbilicus and Inguina, to accompany the Umbilical and Spermatick Vessels, whose Passage was made in Men for no other End, but to let out these Parts, that are absolutely necessary for the Propagation of the Species. These coming from within, through their Passage, or Process, reach the Testicles, which hang without the Body, and resembling a Knife in its Vagina (or Sheath) occasion'd their being call'd vaginal Processes, and so narrow as to admit 'em only.

These Openings are call'd the Rings of the tendinous Expansions of the Ends of the Muscles; the first is, Obliquus Externus, and wherein the Strangulation of the Intestine is generally made; because of its Toughness, the other two are more carious. It is plain, that if Nature had disposed 'em directly over-against each other the least Strain-

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ing, would have protruded the Intestine, and so form'd a Rupture.

*That the lower tendinous Margin of the Obliquus descendens, which lies between the Spine of the Os Ilium, and Os Pubis, is particularly contriv'd to secure the Contents of the lower Belly, from being extruded there; in the same Manner as it frequently happens at the Perforations, for the Passage of the Spermatick Vessels, notwithstanding which, it is not impossible, but that Ruptures may sometimes happen in this Part, and, I imagine this to be the Case, when a Rupture is very large, and not to be retain'd by a Truss: Nature has providentially disposed these Perforations, not exactly opening against each other, for prevention of a Rupture, says the diligent Mr. Cowpar.*

*The Navel, in a Foetus, is only the Passage for the Umbilical Vessels, call'd the Navel String, and as plain in them, as the Passage for the Spermatick Vessels in Persons advanc'd in Years. When these Vessels, or the Navel String, are cut in new born Babes, they contract, shrink, and dry into a ligamentous Nature, and the hard Part which sinks in, is call'd the Umbilicus, or Navel.*

*It cannot then be difficult to conceive, how every Thing that tends towards a strong Expulsion of the Caul, or Intestine, at any of these Parts which are the weakest and least able to resist of the whole Peritonæum, occasions a Rupture; especially if we consider, where Resistance is least, the Parts will be the more easily forc'd out like Dough when hard press'd betwixt the Fingers. Thus either by Violence, or Relaxation, these Parts are driven thro' the Rings, into a Part of the Peritonæum, which*

which forms the Bag. The Bulk is more or less, as the Impulse is stronger or weaker.

When either the Intestine, Omentum, or both are impell'd thro' the Rings into the Process, and go no further than the Groin, the Rupture was call'd by the Antients ὁρχεοκτόνη, by us a Groin, or Inguinal Rupture. If into the Scrotum ὀρχεοκτόνη, by us a Scrotal Rupture. If the Ruptures were complicated, so were their Names, &c. and nothing cou'd be more accurate, than the Ancients were in their Definitions, Distinctions, &c. of Ruptures. And tho' when the Gut is protruded at the Navel, as well as at the Groin, the Rupture, may be properly call'd ἀλεξάνδρη, from ἀλέξανδρος, Intestinum, and κύνη Scroti tumor. Yet by the common Way of speaking, none is call'd so, but that in Scroto, and thus it has been understood from the earliest Greeks.

Now, seeing Ruptures are generally the Effects of Violence, or Relaxation, all violent Exercises, as well as violent Crying, Coughing, Singing, Sneezing, Straining, Vomiting, Purgings, Horse Coursing, heavy Burthens, and ev'ry Thing else that's able to break, tear, or dilate the Peritonæum, may occasion or induce Ruptures; and seeing Humours cause Ruptures, as in Relaxations, the whole Habit of Body is in fault. Violence therefore of every Kind, is to be avoided, least Ruptures in the strictest Sense of the Word, i. e. Bursting, befal' em. In the other, the Habit of Body is to be carefully minded and mended, before any Cure can be expected. Such Remedies then, as are indued with Virtues that dry the whole Habit of Body, and carry off the Humidity by Urine, &c. are left to the Discretion of the Physician and Surgeon,

geon, &c. and not to be had from any Trifling Receipt, to all Constitutions ; and seeing the Choice, Quantity, and Way of administering such Remedies, can't be justly determin'd till a due Regard be had to the Age, Constitution, and other Circumstances, the Management of such, I presume, will be more safely trusted in the Hands of the Skilful, than of the Ignorant, where nothing but Cures by Chance, and Botching, can be expected.

Hippocrates in 4 Epidem. n. 13. bids all beware of violent Exereises, least a Rupture happen to 'em, as it did to one he mentions there, who lifted up an Ass upon a Wager. Paul, and all the Antients, gave much the same Advice, see lib. 3, c. 53. we see that Porters, and all who overstrain their Voices, Horse Coursers, Running Footmen, &c. are liable to Ruptures, occasion'd by the forcible Retention of the Air, which breaks, or dilates that Part of the Peritonæum.--Hildan p. 915. tells us, he knew some ruptur'd by violent Vomits given by Quacks, and Platerus says, he knew several ruptur'd by a Super-Purgation, occasion'd by rash Pretenders.

And tho' it wou'd seem little difficult to know a Rupture from another Tumour, yet Quacks, and rash Pretenders, have not been wanting to make fatal Blunders and Mistakes that Way.—Marchetti tells us of a Quack, who had almost killed a Person by cutting a Groin Rupture, instead of a Venereal Bubo. But tho' his Excrements were voided at the Wound, yet, by the Care and Skill of the said Marchetti, he was cur'd.--Aquapendens de Herniâ Intestinali, has an Instance much the same, Ubi Pater (says he) attonitus cruentas retinuit manus Agyrtæ, accersito medico qui nulla puerum detineri herniâ Asserebat.—Prevotius says, he saw

saw a Countryman, who voided his Excrements all his Life, at a Wound made in his Groin, by a bold Intrepid Quack, who pretended to cure him, by cutting a Bubonocele instead of a Bubo.— A certain she Doctor, not above a Days Journey from this, committed the like Mistake upon a young Woman, whose Life was afterwards sav'd with great Difficulty. Her Fæces follow'd the Lancet instead of the PUS, which this eminent Doctress expected. It was a Bubonocele, she mistook for a common Tumour.

I cou'd instance in a certain Secret-Monger, who vice versa, clap'd his Caustick on a Bubo, instead of a Rupture. And here produce a vast many Instances of such Blunders, were it necessary, or proper. It is enough to remark, that Ignorance is commonly attended with an unjustifiable Rashness; that pushes them on to attempt, without Fear or Discretion, what would make the most exquisite Artist tremble to touch, witness Aneurisms, and Tendons prick'd in bleeding.

Now, notwithstanding Arts are best acquir'd by Practice, yet the healing Art, in a particular Manner, depends on Principles, there's an absolute Necessity for knowing, and however dextrous any may be in the manual Part, yet innumerable Impediments and Obstacles, must occur; which being above their Judgment, will not be easily surmounted, if they have not studied the Principles before hand.

It is not enough then, to have learn'd by Use, to reduce the Parts in a Rupture, but it is absolutely necessary, to have a just and clear Notion of the anatomical Part, as well in their natural, as their deprav'd Situation. How many Ways they may be chang'd, deprav'd, or broken, and the Causes of such

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such Alterations, by what Signs they may be known, und how distinguish'd from one another, what Dispositions of the Parts, render the Cure easy or impracticable, and, in general, what Circumstances give Fear or Hope.

If the meanest Mechanick ought to know the Nature of the Metal, or the Wood, which is the Subject that he works upon, how much rather shou'd they, who take upon 'em to cure Diseases, know the Nature of the Parts they presume to inflame, or burn in humane Bodies.—If such, who are ignorant of Nature and Art, of Anatomy, and the Animal Economy of every Branch of Physick and Surgery, in short, of every Simple in the Materia Medica. If such as are unacquainted with the various Constitutions, as they are with the Nature of the Parts they apply their Caustick to, one Drop whereof touching the Spermatick Vessels, or the Rings of these nervous Expansions of the most exquisite Sensation of any of the whole Frame, will throw 'em into the most severe Convulsions, &c. and in some, the very breaking of the Skin, with their Caustick, a Gangrene follow, as happen'd to a certain Secret-Monger in an Exomphalos that inflam'd and corroded the Parts, so that the Contents burst out, and Death ensued.

Whether ignorant Presumers then, are fit Persons to be trusted with the Concerns of Life and Death? I leave to the Judicious, who, after having perus'd the following Pages, will very easily determine also, whether these absurd, and silly Patrons of Secrets, were ever able to perform what they ~~had~~ have so undauntedly boasted off, and whether it be a new Discovery or not, or a certain infallible Remedy, as they have not wanted Assurance to proclaim it.

THE

# The C O N T E N T S.

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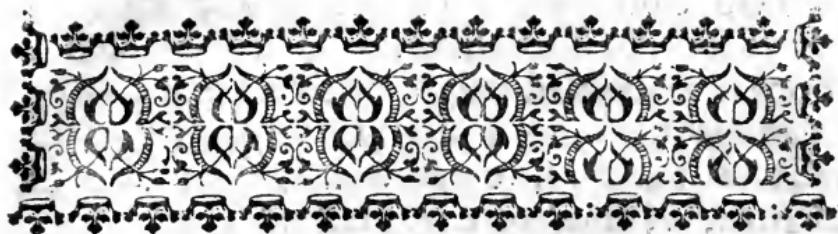
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Helvetius's Stiptick, the same with Eaton's 232—Menjot's Letter 233.

## E R R A T A.

Pag. 31. Line 26, read Liver, instead of Lurgs. P. 164, 165 dele marquard & capivaccius. Pag. 68. l. 15. read studying.



A  
LETTER  
FROM  
*A Physician at PARIS,*  
TO  
*A Physician at LONDON,*  
1723.

SIR,

I F our long continued Friendship procures me no Excuse, for the Interruption I propose to give you, in the Progress of an Application of such Consequence to your self, and others ; let the Honour of our Profession, the Publick Good of both our Countries, and the Redemption which is due from Knowledge to Truth, oppress'd by Ignorance, excite your Candour to indulge me in the Purpose I address you for.

Two Countrymen of yours, Messieurs *Richard Bowles*, and *Gilbert Nelson*, are come amongst us, with Pretensions to a Secret for the infallible Cure of *Ruptures*, whether the Effects of Violence, or of Relaxation; whether in Men, Women or Children, without Regard to Age; or whether complicated with other Diseases, or not!

These bold Pretenders are for Curing all, by a Skill that is always the same, let the Cases be ever so different; no Accident it seems can happen, for which their *Arcanum* is not a Remedy. Mr. *Bowles* inforces his Claim, by no less than Thirty Years Experience, and Examples without Number, to justify his singular Dexterity; and Mr. *Nelson*, his Eleve, supports the Honour of his Master; so that they are become a Publick Town Talk, and of Consequence enough to be inquir'd after.

No one Branch of the Healing Art, has of late Years taken more place in the Conversation of the Learn'd World, than the new and surprising Method of curing Ruptures; daily Accidents exposing all Persons of what ever Rank, or Degree, to the Danger of this general Infirmity: And when I consider, that of the whole Tribe of Diseases, none are more troublesome, none more fatal than some Species of Ruptures; it is no wonder that those who have a Remedy against so formidable an Evil, and a Remedy too, that has the powerful Perswasiveness of Novelty annex'd to it, should

should be so generally applauded, and so universally talk'd of.

They seem, methinks, at once the Shame and Glory of the *Healing Art*; having found out what escaped the Search of so many Learn'd Ancients, and put the whole Body of Surgeons out of Countenance, who pretend no farther than to some Sorts of *Ruptures*, and give Ease to others; and whose Cures too, are often confin'd to Patients under the Age of Twenty Five: Whereas these happy Performers, regard no Difference of Sex, Age, Circumstance or Constitution; but pronounce themselves infallible in all Points; even in those Kinds, which the most sagacious have despair'd of, and discourag'd others from attempting, by declaring them incurable.

I would willingly join in recommending these Miracles of Men, into as general Practice as possible, if I could but sufficiently convince my self of their Merit. If in reality they possess so invaluable a Secret, let them keep it to themselves; and propagating its Effects, receive the Rewards so due to it, both in Riches and Applause. Men, who can invent such extensive Benefits, and discover what the prying Eyes of the Learn'd World have been narrowly looking after so many Ages in vain, can never be higher situated than they deserve, in the Esteem of their fellow Creatures. But when I consider the Persons who are suppos'd to deserve all this, and find them upon Examination, not only illiterate, but ignorant to a Degree of Pi-

ty ; when I discover too, that their pretended Cures are only such as in all Ages have been perform'd by Medicines the most known and remote from *Secrets*, I am provok'd to Indignation, and resolv'd to search narrowly into the Truth of their Pretensions, before I give my Consent to blame or commend : For as Death is the natural Consequence of mistaken Adventures in Physick and Surgery, the Presumption of these Men is no longer an indifferent Matter, and our Detection of their Fraud and Arrogance, becomes a Duty to the Publick. To cry down the Repute of Men, who really possess some useful *Secret*, is to interpose our private Envy to the Obstruction of the common Benefit ; but to advance the Fame of Triflers, who under Colour of such discover'd *Arcanas*, grow Rich upon the ruin'd Health and wrong'd Credulity of Thousands, is a Prostitution of our Reason and Humanity, and a Vote to license Villany, to live and grow Luxuriant on the Sufferings of confiding Ignorance.

To tell you plainly my Opinion concerning Secrets in general, I look upon them for the most Part as Cheats, and meer Appearances ; but then there are some again, so truly valuable, that we should rather tire our Patience by wading through a thousand false Ones, than indanger our Neglect of one that might be really beneficial.

The splendid Quacks of your Country, who live so plentifully by peopling Church-yards, and are so grateful to poor Wretches, who pay  
well

well for their Deaths, that they sometimes don't leave 'em Money enough to supply the Charges of their Funeral ; these Men are known Examples, how necessary it is become for some, who have real Learning in the Art, to undceive the trusting World, that join too readily, to praise Pretenders into Practice, whom they afterwards want Influence to pull down, from their undeserved Exaltation.

But the Word Secret carries with it such an Enchantment on the Curiosity of the Publick, that where designing Men have the Management of it, and harangue it for their own Advantage, into the Opinion of the People, they are easily rais'd into Coaches, for Actions which deserve Carting, and are little better than wilful Murders.

I have Examples in my Memory, which will justify my usual Caution, in giving Credit to the Boasts of these great Enterprizers.— Permit me to remind you of some extraordinary Instances.

*Drelincourt* mentions one *Raoux a Gascon*, that had talk'd himself into such a Reputation for the Cure of all *Ruptures*, and cutting for the Stone at *Paris*, “ That all regular Surgeons were despis'd, and this Man became the Object of universal Adoration ; some call'd him the Nonpareil of the Age ; others the Excel- ler of Antiquity ; Poems and Histories were written in his Praise ; Trophies erected to his Name ; and he was rever'd like some tute-

" lary God, and hail'd as the Deliverer of Hu-  
" mane Race ; till at last this Miracle of a  
" Man, after having butchered several, under  
" Pretence of cutting them for the Stone, when  
" they had really no Stone at all ; and after  
" cutting others without being able to take out  
" the Stones, which they actually had, found  
" it necessary to make a private Retreat, with  
" more than ordinary Precipitation, giving it  
" out, that he was call'd to *Denmark*, tho' in  
" Truth, it was to his own Family at *Nismes*,  
" to live upon the Spoils of those who had  
" pay'd him for destroying them." The whole  
Course of his Impostures is well describ'd by  
Dr. *Drelincourt*, in his *Legende du Gascon*, Pa-  
ris 1665. Leyd. 1674.

" Monsieur *Collot* first discovered the Cheat,  
" and cut an old Man whom *Raoux* had been  
" call'd to in vain, and asserted to have no  
" Stone, tho' Monsieur *Collot* brought away  
" several from him."

“ \* In my Time, says *Hildan*, there came a  
“ Quack to *Cologne*, who cutting one for a  
“ Stone, who had none at all in him, supply’d  
“ that Defect with one he produced out of his  
“ Budget, and which having put into his Pin-  
“ cers, he shewed it to the By-standers, who  
“ discovering the Imposture, complain’d of it  
“ to

\* The Fraud of an Impostor discover'd, *Vide Hild. Lit. theol. Vesic.*

" to the Magistrate, who first punish'd, and  
" then banish'd him."

A certain Physician of your Country, nam'd *Chamberlaine*, pretended he had a Secret for laying Women in hard Labour (were the Case never so difficult) in less than Half a Quarter of an Hour. He was, as I'm inform'd, a very ingenious Man, but full of airy Projects, by the Effects of one of which he was forc'd to retire, and spend the latter Part of his Life among Strangers. The Story is recorded by the famous Man-midwife Mons. *Mauriceau*, in his twenty sixth Observation, under the following Title :

*Of a Woman that died with the Child in her Womb, which could not be deliver'd by an English Man-midwife, who had undertaken to lay her.*

" August 1670, I was call'd to a little Woman, aged Thirty Eight, in Labour of her first Child; and finding it impracticable to lay her, I declar'd the same to her Friends. There happen'd to be then at *Paris*, an English Physician, of the Family of *Chamberlaine*, who from Father to Son, had practis'd Midwifry at *London*; being call'd, he seem'd astonish'd that I could not lay her, and roundly assur'd us, he would certainly do it in Half a Quarter of an Hour, be the Difficulty what it would. So to work he went; but instead of Half a Quarter, he labour'd for above three Hours together, without o-

ther Intermission, than only to take Breath, having exhausted his Spirits, and his Skill ; and seeing the Woman ready to expire in his Hands, he was at last oblig'd to yield, and to confess it (as I had foretold) impracticable. This poor Woman died with the Child in her Womb, after having supported for twenty four Hours the extreme and violent Pains he had occasion'd her. I opened her Body, when dead, after the *Cæsarean* Manner, which I had refus'd to do, when living ; I found her Child, and every Thing else, well-dispos'd. Her Womb torn and bor'd in several Places, with the Instrument which this Man-midwife had blindly made use of, without the Guidance of his Hand, which being as large again as mine, he could not, in all likelihood advance far enough to preserve her. However, this Man-midwife was come from *London* to *Paris*, about six Months before, in Hopes of increasing his Fortune ; and had asserted that he had a particular *Secret* for such kind of Labours, and could lay the hardest, and most difficult, in less than Half a Quarter of an Hour. He had even propos'd to the King's Physician, that he would discover to him this pretended Secret, upon a Reward of ten thousand Crowns ; but this unhappy Labour gave him such a Disgust to our Country, that he return'd to *England* a few Days afterwards, being convinc'd that there were Men at *Paris* better skill'd than himself. But before he set out for *London*, he paid me a Visit, in order to compliment " me

" me on the Book of Midwifry, I had pub-  
 " lish'd some Time before ; and assur'd me, he  
 " had never found any Operation so difficult,  
 " as that Woman's, which he could not ac-  
 " complish, commending me for not undertak-  
 " ing it so abruptly, as he had done. I re-  
 " ceiv'd his Compliment as it deserv'd, and  
 " only answer'd him with a Smile, that he was  
 " much mistaken, if he thought our Women  
 " at *Paris* gave us Children as easily as the  
 " Ladies could at *London*. He set out the next  
 " Day, carrying with him one of my Books,  
 " which he translated into *English*, and printed  
 " it in the Year 1672, whereby he acquir'd  
 " such a Fame in the Art of Deliveries at *Lon-*  
 " *don*, that he has got an Estate, as I have  
 " been inform'd by some of his Acquaintance.  
 " — If he should read this Report, and is but  
 " as sincere as I am, he must confess, That I  
 " have related it with all the religious Strict-  
 " ness that Truth can require, or is capable of,  
 " and he cannot but well remember it."

" The extraordinary Difficulty that hapned  
 " in this Labour, was the Occasion of my in-  
 " venting an Instrument, which I call a *Tire*  
 " *Tete*, whose Use is far more convenient, and  
 " safer than Hooks. If I had then had such  
 " an Instrument, I'm perswaded that with the  
 " Help of it I should have sav'd her Life."

" In the Year 1697, Fryar *James*, a *Fran-*  
 " *ciscan*, made a yet greater Noise at *Paris*,  
 " with Pretensions to an easier and better Way  
 " of Cutting than before invented. And Mon-  
     " sieur

" sieur *Mery*, Anatomist to the Royal Academy of Sciences, in his Observations on this Fryar's Manner of Cutting, printed at *Paris* 1700, has distinctly, and accurately described the Inconveniencies and Dangers of his Operation. — As this particularly relates to Surgeons, I refer them to that Book, and shall here only observe what Monsieur *Mery* says in Page 74. That Fryar *James* being allow'd to cut in both the Hospitals, *viz.* the *Hotel Dieu*, and *La Charite*, thirteen only were sav'd out of Sixty, and of these Thirteen, few (if any) were perfectly cur'd, being troubl'd with an Incontinency of Urine, through an incurable Fistula. Whereas out of Twenty Two cut by the Surgeons of these two Hospitals, that Season, there died but three, and those, of an ill-habit of Body; so that Nineteen, out of Twenty Two, were perfectly and compleatly cur'd."

Monsieur *Mery* dissected most of their dead Bodies, who had been cut by Fryar *James*, in the Prefence of many eminent Physicians and Surgeons of *Paris*; and as he was one of the most accurate Anatomists, and best practical Surgeons of the Age, he clearly demonstrated, that by this Man's Way of Cutting, an Incontinency of Urine, and an incurable fistulous Ulcer, were the inevitable Effects of the Operation; and so the Truth coming to be known, he was prohibited any further Cutting in those two Hospitals.— The same Writer adds, That the Fryar ought in Conscience to lay aside that Operation; and admonishes him to consider, how

how he will answer to God and Man, for the Death and fatal Accidents, which had been so often occasion'd by it.

In fine, says he, " As far as I can know the Bottom of my own Heart, neither Envy, nor Desire of rendring my self considerable, have any Share in my Account of him ; and the same Motive that ingag'd me to testify my Reluctance, at his being allow'd to cut in the *Hotel Dieu*, has also urg'd me to expose the Inconveniencies of his Operation, that I might prevent the Publick from suffering ; and having thereby discharg'd my Duty, I pray God to inspire those, who have his Authority in their Hands, with a Will to put a Stop to the Course of these fatal Accidents."

Monsieur *Noel*, a famous Surgeon at *Orleans*, writing to Monsieur *Mery*, an Account of what Fryar *James* had done in that City, says, That he perform'd many Operations on ruptur'd People ; that he castrated where there was no Necessity, even all the Children that were brought to him ; though its well known, that by a good Trus, Children are easily cur'd, and that Castration was always condemn'd, except in Cases of absolute Necessity.

Monsieur *Savoiard*, one of the Surgeons of the *Hotel Dieu*, who had been Eye-Witnes to the Fryar's Operations there, and constantly attended Monsieur *Mery*, when he dissected the other Sacrifices, tells us in his Chirurgical Operations, " That this Fryar had pass'd for a marvellous

“ marvellous *Lithotomist*, in Spite of all the  
“ Mischiefs which attended his Way of Cut-  
“ ting, and assigns the following Reasons.”

“ 1st, He cut in a way that was different from  
“ the Surgeons. 2dly, His very great Bold-  
“ ness in Working, and Assurance in Boasting  
“ the Success of his Exploits. 3ly, His seem-  
“ ing Disinterestedness. 4ly, His wearing the  
“ Monks Habit, and appearing Devout. 5ly,  
“ His pretending what he knew in Surgery, to  
“ be by Divine Inspiration ; so that having  
“ laid out nothing for his own Instruction, he  
“ would teach others *Gratis*.”

“ When first he came to *Paris*, he vainly  
“ boasted, That he could cut without Pain,  
“ and that he cur'd his Patients in less Time  
“ than any body else, and without fear of a  
“ Fistula, or any other Accident, all which  
“ was discovered to be false ; for they were put  
“ to a great deal of Torment, and an Inconti-  
“ nency of Urine, and an incurable Fistula,  
“ were the constant Effects of his Operation ; so  
“ that the Fryar's Boasting was pure Gasco-  
“ nade ; and though idolatrous of his evil Me-  
“ thod, intrepid in his Ignorance, obstinate in  
“ his Operations, and presumptuous to Excess,  
“ he will never be other than a rambling and  
“ unskilful Quack.”

Monsieur *Dionis*, a sworn Surgeon at *Paris*, well known for his great Skill in that particular Way, and by the Works wherewith he has oblig'd the World, informs us, That, “ Of these . . . . . “ the

" the Fryar had cut in the Charity Hospital,  
 " seven died in one Day.—Monsieur *Mareschal*,  
 " first Surgeon of the Charity Hospital,  
 " cut Monsieur *Fagon*, and sav'd his Life.—  
 " The Fryar *James* cut the *Mareschal de Lorge*,  
 " and kill'd him, which shew's us the great  
 " Difference between a Quack, and a good  
 " Surgeon.—But the Fryar lost his Reputation:  
 " And those who had boasted loudest  
 " of his Art, were now disgrac'd into Silence.—In short, this Story of Fryar *James*,  
 " may teach us, not to applaud what seems  
 " new, with so much Vehemence and Rash-  
 " ness. We ought to receive cautiously, those  
 " Remedies which are offered in Surgery and  
 " Phyfick, by those who boast of more Abi-  
 " lity than others, till they are practis'd by those  
 " who are skilful."

It is well observ'd by the same *Dionis*, " That  
 " we are not to look upon *Ruptures* as new  
 " Diseases, having been perfectly well known  
 " to the Surgeons of former Ages, notwith-  
 " standing of the Reserve with which such  
 " People were us'd to conceal them. But since  
 " Trusses and other Helps were found out, to  
 " strengthen relax'd Fibres; and especially since  
 " Prior *Cabriere* came from *Languedoc* to Court,  
 " with a *Secret* for the Cure of Ruptures;  
 " People have not been so scrupulous to shew  
 " them, in Hopes of possessing the Benefit of  
 " this Remedy."

He was introduc'd in the Year 1680, to the  
 King, to whom he reveal'd his *Secret*, pray-  
 ing

ing His Majesty would not discover it, till after his Death ; and though it be fully and distinctly describ'd in Monsieur *Dionis's* Operations, yet for the Sake of those, who have not his Book, I shall set it down in a few Words, as it was publish'd by his Majesty, after the Death of the Prior.

The Rectified Spirit of Salt, was the Remedy ; From two to six Years of Age, four Drops, in two Spoonfuls of Red-wine ; from six to ten Years of Age, two Scruples, in a Quart of Red-wine, two Ounces every Morning. — From ten to fourteen Years, two Drachms, in a Quart of Red-wine ; from seventeen to any Age, five Drachms, in a Quart of Red-wine.

The Prior's Plaister for Ruptures was,  
 Recipe *Mastic*, half an Ounce ; *Ladan*. three Drachms ; *Nuc. Cypress*, N°. 3. *Hypocistis*, one Drachm ; *Terræ Sig.* one Drachm ; *Pic. Nav.* three Ounces ; *Tereb. Ven.* one Ounce.  
*Rad. Consol. Maj.* half an Ounce, M. F. E.

The Part being first shav'd, the Plaister was apply'd with a fit Truss. The Remedy to be taken Fasting ; nor was the Patient to eat, or drink, for four Hours after ; nor to ride on Horseback, or in Coach, to use no Violence, to do nothing to Excess. The Truss was order'd to be kept constantly on, for three Months, from the first Day of applying the Remedy.

What a Mountain was this Molehill fwell'd to ? By the Sanction which it seem'd to borrow from the Distinction of a Royal Notice !

It is worth the Curiosity of any Person, who wou'd seriously reflect on the pernicious and prodigious Influence of bold Impostors, when grown popular, and reverenc'd by the Multitude, to look into the little History of *James Aymar*, a Paisant of St. *Veran* in *Dauphine*.

" Never did any thing make more Noise  
 " than the divining Wand of this poor Paisant,  
 " of which amazing Discoveries were report-  
 " ed ; yet was the Glory but short-liv'd, as it  
 " fares often with the most of these Cheats ; for  
 " the Prince of *Condé*'s extraordinary Abilities,  
 " soon pull'd down the Trophies which had  
 " been set up by the credulous Vulgar ; and  
 " the baffled Presumer, being detected upon o-  
 " pen Trials, in the Palace of that discerning  
 " Prince, the World was inform'd of the Cheat,  
 " and undeceiv'd by His Highness's Order."

" This Wonder-working *Aymar*, even con-  
 " fess'd to the Prince, that he knew nothing of  
 " what had been attributed to him ; and that  
 " all he had hitherto done, was but with View  
 " to gain a Livelihood : The Frankness of  
 " which Confession, procur'd him a Gratuity  
 " of Thirty *Louis d'ors*, to expedite a Retreat,  
 " which was now become necessary ; lest de-  
 " fended no longer by the Protection the Prince  
 " had afforded him, his Escape should be pre-  
 " vented.

“ vented, by the People whom he had so grossly injur’d.”

“ Leibnitz tells us, That when *Aymar* was discover’d, the Dutches of *Hanover* (who was Sister-in-Law to the Prince of *Conde*) declar’d it as her Opinion, that it was better to expose publickly the Falshood of those Things, than to smother them with the trifling Intention of encouraging the accepted Belief of the divining Wand, in order to frighten ignorant Pilferers, into Restitution of the Goods they had stolen, tho’ she had been present when *James Aymar* confess the Fact, and ask’d Pardon for it, excusing himself by this pleasant Argument, That his own Impudence had contributed less to his Fame and Fortune, than the Credulity of others.”

N. B. “ It’s remarkable, that he impos’d on them the more easily, by his simple and rustick Air, and speaking the Gibberish of his Country.”

“ Upon all which, Mr. *Leibnitz* observes, That if the Prince of *Conde* had not discovered this Imposture, no Arguments could ever have prevail’d to this very Day, with these credulous People. It’s to be fear’d, that *James Aymar* and his Tricks will hardly be soon forgotten, and that People will be dispos’d to see the same Comedy over again, if some new Actor a few Years hence shou’d have Impudence enough to revive it.”

" *Sorbiere* writes of one *Borri*, an *Italian*  
 " Chymist, but as accomplish'd a Quack, as if  
 " he had been born among believing *Britches*,  
 " who made, it seems, a prodigious Noise at  
 " *Amsterdam*, where People flock'd as to an  
 " universal Physician. He appear'd in a state-  
 " ly Equipage, and took upon him the Title  
 " of Excellency. They talk'd of marrying him  
 " to the greatest Fortunes, &c. but his Repu-  
 " tation sunk at once, either because his Mirac-  
 " les found no Faith, or his Faith could work  
 " no Miracles; so he broke without warning,  
 " and fled one Night from *Amsterdam*, with  
 " many Jewels, and large Sums, that he had  
 " pilfer'd."

" You have a Mind, says *Sorbiere*, to know  
 " how this very Cavalier *Borri*, became so ce-  
 " lebrated at *Paris*, that some Persons of Qua-  
 " lity caus'd themselves to be carried to *Hi-*  
 " *land* in Litters, that they might be cur'd by  
 " that Quack; and that several ingenious Per-  
 " sons went thither on no other Account, than  
 " to see so great a Man. — To this I can only  
 " answer, that it's as true now, as it was for-  
 " merly, that, *Homo est animal credulum, &*  
 " *mendax*, Man is a credulous and lying Ani-  
 " mal. — They who cou'd so easily believ'e  
 " the Stories that were told of these Workers  
 " of Miracles, such as *Borri*, before the World  
 " was undeceiv'd in his Character, did not  
 " fail, without doubt, in their Infancy, to li-  
 " sten attentively to their Nurses instructive

“ Narrations, which denote an honest Nature,  
“ and a Wit, that is ductile and pliable !”

“ I could make certain proper Reflections upon this. — I have known People after laughing at Physicians, on a sudden give entire Credit to the Promises of a Quack, and suffer themselves to be bubbl'd by his new Method of selling the worst of those Wares they had so smartly under-valued. — He whom I am speaking of, and going to describe, is a tall black young Man, &c. lives high, in a House of 15,000 Crowns, bought in a good Place, 5 or 6 Footmen. His Dress after the French Fashion; gives Collations to the Ladies; once refus'd five or six Dollars; gave it to the Poor in a proper Time; and by Help of such like Arts, made some credulous Persons report, that he gave Handfuls of Diamonds, that he had found the Philosopher's Stone, and had a Remedy for all Diseases.”

“ The Truth of it is; Seignior Borri had Cunning enough to prevail with some Princes, to supply him with Money, in Hopes by his Art to attain the Philosopher's Stone, which he was upon the Point of finding out. He had some Skill in Chimistry, and a few Purgative or Stomachical Remedies, that are commonly very general. By this Lure he has insinuated himself into their Regard, whom he stood in need of; and Merchants, as well as Princes, have fall'n into his Trap. — He made a Promise of 200,000 Livres to one who had supply'd his Expences.

Amsterdam

" *Amsterdam* he maintain'd himself for some  
 " Time by the Purse of an old Burgomaster,  
 " whom he kept up with his Cordial Waters,  
 " till every body discovered his Knavish Tricks,  
 " and laugh'd at his pretended Skill, or rather,  
 " till he fainted himself, under a Decay of Re-  
 " putation, and found his Loss of Credit an  
 " incurable Distemper."

" As for his Medicines, People are no bet-  
 " ter for them, where he is, than they are in  
 " this City, for the Remedies of another Quack,  
 " who has almost as great a Reputation in the  
 " Country of *Liege*, and in *Holland*, as *Borri*  
 " has in *Paris*."

" Could we discover the Mystery of those,  
 " who set up for extraordinary Cures, we  
 " should find that there's generally a Combi-  
 " nation of People concern'd in it, as Joint-  
 " Sharers. The Quack asserts his Talent, and  
 " his Zanies invent Proofs to establish the Be-  
 " lief of it. But some Cheats have no need of  
 " Emissaries, the Credulity of the Publick swells  
 " and buoys up the Imposture. It's not long  
 " since there travell'd through the Towns of  
 " *Holland*, a Sort of *Germans*, who pretended  
 " to Cure without Remedies; our Patients,  
 " said they, need but send us their Urine. —  
 " The Success of these Men, was the Subject  
 " of the common Talk, till every body contri-  
 " buted some new Circumstance to their Won-  
 " ders. — Their Lodgings were like the Pool  
 " of *Bethesda*, full of, and surrounded with,  
 " the Infirm; and the Faithful convince my-

" self, that they who spoke loudest for those  
 " Quacks, were most Partakers of their Profit:  
 " Some pleased 'emselves to recommend the  
 " Thing, because it look'd like a Prodigy, o-  
 " thers by crying up this, indulg'd their Spleen  
 " against common Medicines, with which they  
 " were out of Humour, because they had try'd  
 " them unprofitably.—But the Cheat did not  
 " last long, a Month or two put all Things  
 " right. This Chimera was refuted, and so  
 " many People were undeceiv'd. Their Ap-  
 " plause was chang'd into Contempt, and Mr.  
 " Luneu, a very ingenious Physician of Rot-  
 " terdam, publish'd a Treatise in Dutch, and  
 " French, to expose the Vanity, and Ridicu-  
 " lousness of this Practice." See *History of the*  
*Works of the Learned*, by Mr. Basnage. May  
 1697, p. 408. And the *Paris Journal*, Janu-  
 ary 13, 1698, p. 30. Dutch Edition.

Methinks, therefore, it were no unreasonable Wish, that all *Secrets* should be laid before those who are Masters in the Art, until their Use has been approv'd, upon repeated Trials fairly circumstanc'd.—It was, in my Opinion, an admirable Piece of Justice, which was executed upon that profligate Jew, an Impostor and Quack, mention'd by the Learn'd *Forrestus*; who by pretending to cure *Ruptures*, Ulcers in the Reins, &c. brought several of his deluded Patients to a lingering Death, by the most excruciating Pains, that Human Nature was capable of Suffering: In return for which, his own Body was exposed naked, both at *Leyden*,

*den, and Macklin,* to the Lashes of the common Hangman.

If every one, who acted like this Jew, was also to suffer like him, Impostors would shortly be as rare, as they are now frequent among us.

On the other Hand, where an ignorant Person comes Honestly by a *Secret*, the Publick Use of which, wou'd turn to the Emolument of Mankind, he ought to meet with Encouragement, as *Tabor* did, who was Knighted by King *Charles* the Second, for the *Peruvian*, call'd the *Jesuit's-Bark*, of whom, and his Remedy, particular Accounts have been publish'd in the Transactions of the *Royal-Society* with you; and in *Du Blegny's Zodiacus Medico Gallicus*, for the Month of *August*, 1680.

Thus, Sir, in the Case before us, there seems to be no Medium; those Gentlemen, whom I nam'd in the Beginning of this Letter, must either deserve our Admiration, or our Contempt.

—If they can cure, as they say, no Praises are too extravagant for their Merit. All Physicians, all Surgeons, ought to extol, and recommend them, to their Patients Confidence, and ample Reward.

But if their Pretensions are groundless; if they have stoll'n a few *Recipes* from Authors, and wou'd insinuate them to be New.— Their Cheat shou'd be expos'd, for the common Good, and their Persons to the Contempt

and Ridicule of all Practitioners : No Usage can be bad enough for such Secret-mongers, and silly Pretenders.

It is therefore worth our serious Examination, whether they have, or but pretend to have, so useful a Secret. And we cannot be too wary, before we pass Judgment, where the Applause must Rise so considerably, or the Censure fall so heavy.

My Suspicion of their Integrity; is increas'd by *Bowles's* refusing to meddle with any in our Hospitals. I am well inform'd too, that they give the Doses of their Powder at random ; as much to a Child of Ten Years, as to a Person of Sixty. They, in like Manner, rub as much of their Caustick. Old or Young, Lean or Fat, makes no Difference in their Applications. They trouble not their Heads, it seems, about the Constitutions of their Patients. They use no Preparations, treat all alike, and place their whole Confidence in their Powder, and Caustick.

Now, Let the *Secret* they boast of, be as valuable as they represent it ; yet, it cannot be so, in these Men's Hands, unless they trust some able and experienc'd Surgeon, to join with them, in the Method of using it, with regard to the Difference of Occasions ; for they being ignorant of Anatomy, and the Animal Oeconomy, can never apply it, but with Chance of Success, and in some Cases, not without extreme Danger.

*Bowles,*

*Bowles*, who would tacitely insinuate, that he was the Inventer of this *Secret*, is, I am told, a poor Ignoramus of a Sect, call'd *Quakers*, as if he would have it consider'd as the *Gift of Inspiration*, unless perhaps an unletter'd *Bowles* could, like the learn'd *Vanhelmont*, dream himself into the Discovery of a Specifick, for the Benefit of all Mankind.

But, I confess, I have no great Veneration, whether for the Learn'd, or the Unlearn'd, who have Wonders of this Kind, communicated to them in Dreams and Visions. I am no more for Fanaticks in Physick, than in Divinity.— In the Communication of most *Secrets* like these, the Name of the Original Author is made a Part of the Conveyance: But *Bowles* refuses to let us know from what Fountain his was deriv'd, and evading a direct Answer to that Question, only tells us of a mighty Reputation and Profit, which the Knowledge, of but one Part of his *Secret*, has brought to a certain Person, who practises it with you at *London*, and who is said here, to have obtain'd no less a *Premium* for it, than Five Thousand Pounds Sterling, besides a Pension of 500*l. per Annum*, and the Honour of Knighthood, from His Majesty of *Great Britain*.

It ought, indeed, to be a Glorious *Secret*, that deserves such a Reward as this. — And, it is as Glorious to Give such Rewards, where they are Merited: — But, methinks, if this be true, We Physicians of *France*, should be In-

jurious to our Fellow Subjects, not to covet the Importation of it, into our Kingdom ; and it wou'd be a wounding Blow upon the Prudence of our Surgeons, should they discountenance the Practice of a *Secret*, in our Nation, which has been so liberally pay'd for in Yours. Yet, we cannot, on the other Hand with Prudence, in regard to our selves, or with Humanity, in regard to our Fellow Subjects, permit People, who have had no regular Education, to try new Practices on the Bodies of our Countrymen ; unless we have Proofs, as well as Assertions, that they would not be try'd in vain.

Now, if Thirty Years Experience, which is boasted of by Mr. *Bowles*, has gain'd him the Reputation he pretends to, in *Great Britain* ; and if Sir *T. R.* confirms, That this is the very *Secret*, for which he himself has Receiv'd so *Royal* a Reward ; We will forget, or over-look, their Want of regular Education, and Supply that Defect, by allowing Weight to their *Experience*.

But, if they are come amongst Us, with false and frivolous Pretensions, the Cheat will never be tolerated, and its Authors will go near to meet with the Punishment, which is due to their Arrogance. — It is then, Sir, The Honour, or Infamy of *France*, that requires the *Truth* of this Matter to be manifested ; and by your Answer, We shall be able to learn, Whether we ought to treat Messieurs *B—s*, and *N—n*, as desirable Guests, or

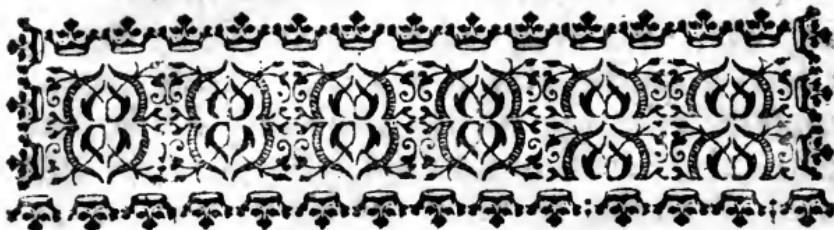
or drive them back as base Impostors? In fine,  
Whether one of your Countrymen has deserved  
a *Statue*, for actually discovering this *Se-  
cret*, or Two of them have merited a *Whip-  
ping-Post*, for boldly and falsely pretending to  
it?

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T H E

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182  
with the original Spalding  
writing and on the portion that is  
not clear I have written what I think  
should be. A critical examination of  
the gathering would show which



THE  
A U T H O R's  
A N S W E R

To the foregoing

L E T T E R.

S I R,

OUR compassionate Care for the Relief of Persons afflicted with *Ruptures*, so agreeably apparent through the Whole of your Epistle, worthy as it is of Praise, is yet not more commendable, than your Concern for the Discovery of Truth: The former claims the Thanks of all unhappy Sufferers in that Way, and the latter, the Universal Applause of all sincere and good Men.

You

You eagerly purſu'd Knowledge in the *Healing Art*, and was early improv'd by Instructions from the best of Masters. Your uncommon Application to the Dissecting Knife, and particular Scrutiny into the State of those, who died *Ruptur'd*; to view the Cause of their Incurable Diseases, render you an able Judge in this Case; and therefore I will with Carefulness convey you my Sentiments.

That Infants are very liable to *Ruptures*, and easily cur'd by a well adapted Truss or Bandage, is a Truth I need not here insist on, when I address my self to one of your large Experience and Universal Reading; who know alſo, that it were Labour lost, to pretend to cure ſuch by Medicines, which for the most Part, will not be prevail'd on to take beyond a Syrup. — I have found too, that Children are almost as easily cur'd of either Umbilical, Inquinal, or Scrotal *Ruptures*. — For my own Part, I have ſeldom order'd any Thing, but a proper Bandage or Truss, which with the Nurse's Care, and keeping them tight on, over a Bit of common *ad Herniam* Plaifer, was generally Effectual. The many Truss-makers in this populous City, and all who deal with Children's *Ruptures*, will bear Testimony to the Truth of this Observation.

Persons of a more advanc'd Age, may be cur'd by a regular Diet and a few common Medicines, which are mention'd by all Authors,

thors; and practis'd by all People, who pretend to deal that Way.

*Foreius in Scholia, on Obs. 16. de Enterocelle Lethali,* p. 189.

Tells us, That some *Ruptures* are curable, some hard to be cur'd, and that some will admit of no Cure. That a *Sarcocele*, if large and inveterate, can be no Way cur'd, but by Castration. — Nor does a *Circocele*, or various *Rupture*, admit of a Cure. — A *Hernia Omenti* is hardly to be cur'd; for the *Omentum*, because of its Softness, can scarce be found, and yields to the Impellent if reduc'd.

A *Hydrocele* of a long standing, where the Matter has acquir'd Acrimony, and the Testicles are affected, with little Urine, reddish, or of diverse Colours, is mortal according to *Bertrutius*. — We are assur'd by *Gordonius*, That all *Ruptures* are easily cur'd in the Beginning, especially in Children.

A *Hernia Intestinalis*, of a long standing, where the Lips of the inner Breach are hardened so, as to refuse Agglutination, I never, says he, saw one cur'd but by Surgery. *Et licet multa promittamus, pauca tamen attendimus.* *Ideo ubi fuerint labia indurata & callosa, non possunt amplius vere Uniri.* When I was a diligent Inquirer into these Things, I never could cure a very large *Rupture* (unless recent) but by Surgery. I have seen many perish in the Hands of the Quack Restorers. — Let us therefore

therefore beware of false Promises, says *Gordoniūs.*

*Avicenna* remarks, That a *Rupture* in tender Years, with a well fitted Truss, Rest in Bed, and a proper Diet, is much more easily cur'd, than in any other Age, because being growing, the Parts become Stronger, as they grow Older: And I have observ'd, that the most Part of weak Children, are *Ruptur'd*, but recover as they grow more vigorous and healthy.

Many are the Accidents that attend some Umbilical *Ruptures*, because the smaller Intestines are generally concern'd; for when the *Ileon* is compress'd, the Distribution of the *Chyle* is intercepted, Pain and Inflammation excited; hence vomiting of the Excrements, Hiccup, and all the other dreadful Symptoms, that attend Death, if not timely, and artfully prevented.

I am very sensible, that several rare and admirable *Cures* have been handed down to Us by Authors of undoubted Reputation, and that from Surgery we may hope for a happy Event, if taken in Time, before an Inflammation has induc'd a Gangrene, as I have frequently seen in your Hospitals, ev'n such as were pretty far advanc'd in Years, reliev'd from certain Death, by the Hands of your dextrous Surgeons.

To enumerate the Cures perform'd, and recorded by Authors, would be fitter for a Volume

turne apart. — *Sckenius*, from *Holtzack*, has a very singular Cure of a compleat *Rupture* in an old Man. — *Parey's Priest*, who was cur'd by the Help of a Truss alone, is a most remarkable Instance. — So is *Meckeran's*. *Obs. Chir. 54.*

But notwithstanding these, and all that our own Experience can afford us, we must acknowledge the Dangers, and insuperable Difficulties, that attend most *Ruptures*, in old Age. Let these few suffice, out of the many I could particularize.

*Dr. Abel Roscius*, in his Letter to *Hildanus*, tells us of a Senator at *Cambray*, who dy'd of an *Iliack Passion*, occasion'd by a *Hernia* in *Scroto*, which cou'd by no Means be reduc'd for an Excrecence in *Meatu*, that grew in the Passage.

*Fab. ab Aquap. Operat. Chir. c. 76.*

Sometimes it has hapn'd to fall out so with me, that the Testicle, which, to outward Appearance, seem'd sound, was yet within quite putrid.

*Frederic. Loffius, Obs. 30. Lib. 2.*

Gives us an Instance of a *Hernia Umbilicalis*, mortal, for one of the Lobes of the Lungs, being fall'n out of the *Peritonæum*, and grown to it. When the Body was opened, not so much as the least Vestige of the *Omentum*, was found; the Spleen very small, the *Peritonæum* being brok'n, the small Intestines fell into the *Umbilicus*,

*licus*, and there spaccelated one of the Lobes of the Liver; (for it was strangely divided in two) the one in the right Hypochondre, in its proper Place, the other was fall'n without the *Peritoneum*, and so firmly adher'd, that it could scarce be separated with the Knife; *Carter Sana.*

*Hildan, Cent. 1. Obs. 72.*

Tells us of a strong Man, who had a complete *Rupture* from a great Weight. That the Symptoms were grievous, and that in seven Days he died. That when he dissected the *Scrotum*, he found the *Omentum*, Testicles and neighbouring Parts corrupted and gangreen'd. He takes Notice, That when the *Omentum* falls down into the *Scrotum*, it oft'n affects the Stomach, and has such Influence upon it, that it's the Cause of Hicup, and other dreadful Symptoms.

Notwithstanding the *Omentum* does not ordinarily weigh above a Pound, yet he saw an *Omentum in Scroto*, which weigh'd above Five Pounds, and had so drawn down the Stomach, out of its Place, that Hicups, and other Symptoms, hasten'd Death.

The more I inquire into the Reason of *Ruptures*, the more I find that those soft Ones call'd by the Vulgar, Fleshy, and deservedly distinguish'd from varicous, proceed from the falling down of the *Omentum*, and its increasing there.

## Joachimus Camerarius.

Tells us, in his Observations, of a Gentleman of great Note, who was troubl'd with a threefold *Rupture*, a *Hydrocele*, *Sarcocele*, and *Enterocèle*, which prov'd mortal, from the Intestines putrified in *Scroto*; and that though he was a little reliev'd after it was cut, and the Water let out, yet on the fourth Day, a Fever succeeded, and put an End to his Life. It weigh'd Forty Pounds.

## J. D. Horstius, Obs. Anat. 6.

Gives us an Account of a *Rupture* made up, as he says, *Ex aquosa, Carnosa, & Varicosa*. The oblong Tumor, shew'd it to be watery, the Testicle being hid to both Touch and Sight. The Wound might occasion its Carnosity. The Pain shew'd it was varicous, which was exasperated by the Distention of the Spermatick Vessels, whence, most intense Tortures attended Erection. All Things were us'd in vain, for he dy'd.

Upon opening, *Vasa Testiculorum varicum modo consistebant; dextri Testiculi spongiosa & putrida, Tunicae que adnata erat, in dextra Scroto parte caro adiposa.*

## Dodonaeus, Obs. 40.

Tells us, of a *Hydrocele* laid open in vain, because the Testicle was corrupted.

*Jac. Thevart. Anat. 2. in Conf. 24. Lib. 2.  
Conf. Ballonii.*

Mentions one *Le Charon*, who died of a complete *Rupture*, in whose *Scrotum* the Half of his *Intestines*, and *Mesentery* were found, that they cou'd not be reduc'd. That they were nourish'd there, and perform'd their Offices, as in their Native Places.

*Philip Salmuth. Cent. 1. Obs. 11.*

That a Quack pretended to cure a complete *Rupture*, with *Cataplasms* of *Goats-Dung*, unfit for it, which with cutting to give vent for Matter, where there was none, only brought on a Fever, and put an End to the Patient's Life. Upon opening, the *Intestines* with Part of the *Meseraicks*, were found putrified in *Scroto*.

*Dom. Sala.*

Says, he saw the *Mesentery*, with the small Guts, in *Scroto*: Which, with the vast Bulk, so compress'd the Neck of the Bladder, that the Patient dy'd by a Suppression of Urine. *Bartholine* has the same.

*Mag: Bailly, a Surgeon at Geneva.*

In dissecting the Body of *Carolus Ludovicus*, aged Seventy, who had been troubled with a complete *Rupture* Twenty Years, found the Process of the *Peritoneum* so distended, that when the *Intestines* and *Omentum* were remov'd, the *Meatus*, or Passage freely admitted of the largest Hand, and that the *Omentum* adher'd

her'd so tightly to the Intestines, that it was impossible to separate 'em without Laceration, the *Testes* no bigger than Nutmegs.

*Celsus, l. 7. c. 18.*

Says, *Aliquando caro quoque inter tunicas increscit, σαρκοκελην̄ graci vocant.* Which Sarcocele's are not to be cur'd by Medicines, but by Excision.

*Salius, Lib. 7. c. 8.*

*Duram facit & cancerosam a medico nullatus tractandam.*

*Borrichius, Obs. 97.*

*Non satis providi rei AEstimatores mibi videntur, qui confirmatam σαρκοκελην̄ vel medicamentis discussisse se, vel discuti posse Evulgant, quod nimium occalleat massa illa & mille plexibus nervosis iisque solidis contrahat Invictam duritatem.*

*Matthiolus* and *Scultetus*, both fancied they had cur'd a Sarcocele with the Powder of Restharrow-Roots, but they were mistaken, it having been only a Beginning Hydrocele. *Forrestus*, *Sennertus*, and other Experienc'd and Learn'd Practical Physicians take Notice, That when the Water lies deep, several have been deceiv'd, and taken 'em for Sarcocele's.

*Geiger in his Kelegraphia.*

Mentions many Mistakes have been made about *Ruptures*, especially by the *Cursores*, whom we call Quacks, often to the Ruin of those who were so unhappy as to fall into their

Hands. —— Moreover says he, They are often deceiv'd by the Touch, while the Hardness of some Hydrocele's induces 'em to believe it to be a *Sarcocele*. —— A certain Butcher lost his Life in *Munich*, by such a Judgment. He dy'd Two Hours after he was cut. See *Cap. 3.*

Those, who use Septicks, rashly to consume superfluous Flesh, in *Sarcocele's*, frequently excite Symptoms, *Cane pejus & angue fugienda carnosa moles*.

#### *Van Hamen.*

Who lately wrote expresly a Dissertation on *Ruptures*, speaking of compleat Hernia's, says, *Compositas quas singularem non Exigere curationis methodum in propatulo est, Silentio involvere Satius esset quam Ingenii Imbecillitate deterrere.*

#### *The Learn'd Rhodius from Fallopius.*

Adviseth, *Si cum Hernia aquosa caro circa testiculum concreverit, operatio periculosa, & in cancrum proclivis testis enim corruptus facile inficit.*

#### *Hildan and Griffonius.*

Met with Hydrocele's, with Sarcoceles', they did not at first perceive, which soon turn'd Cancerous; so that within a few Days, they departed this Life, with great Torture and Pain. *Vid. Obs. 65. Cent. 4.*

I shall conclude this Point, with the Sentiments of the Learn'd *Mercurialis de Morbis Puerorum*, L. I. c. 7. who was throughly acquainted with what the Ancients, and Moderns,

derns, both could do in *Ruptures*, *Morbus iste nullis mehercle in adultioribus cedit medicamentis, nullis medicorum formulis, omnia respuit præter manuum operam.* Nam, ut habet *Hippocrates*, *Peritonæum descissum in durioribus corporibus non coalescit*, i. e. *Ruptures* in such as are advanc'd in Years, yield to no Medicines, elude the Force of all Forms of Physick, and nothing can subdue them but Manual Operation; for as *Hippocrates* has it, A rent *Peritonæum* in hardn'd Bodies, can't be Join'd.

If these Sentiments of dead Authors, so justly fam'd while Living, for their real Skill and Knowledge of *Ruptures*, &c. want Influence to induce a Belief of the Truths here advanc'd; let the Parts prolaps'd, tak'n from dead Bodies, which, while Living, were tortur'd with the Effects of their incurable *Ruptures*, put this Affair out of Doubt. If Seeing be the most forcible Motive for Believing; any whose Curiosity may incline them to such Sights, may behold them in the Cabinet of that ingenious, accurate and indefatigable Anatomist Dr. *James Douglass*, whose own skillful Hand, having dissected them for the Publick Good, he will doubtless be willing to shew them; and I hope will shortly oblige the World with an artful, and distinct Anatomical Account of his valuable Collection.

What a Melancholy Prospect then, does the Case of some *Ruptur'd* People afford a Conscientious Physician, whose whole Desire and Study is to relieve Pain, comfort the afflicted,

and cure their Diseases, when he sees his good Purposes ineffectual, and is forc'd to own it out of the Power of his Art.

That it is so, in some Cases, is too certain; and I'm afraid, will even remain so, to the End of Time, from the very Nature of Things; it being impossible to make old People young again, or to restore that Life and Spring to relax'd and decay'd Fibres. Though I must confess, some Cases may happen, which tho' seemingly incurable, yet may chance to be cur'd, especially if from a sound Race, and where the Constitution has not been broken; of which Authors have giv'n us Examples.

Now were any of Our modest Undertakers consulted in such like Cases, nay in worse (if that were possible) they wou'd not only slight what Men of so great Experience and Judgment have said, but ev'n Promise, a *safe, certain, and speedy* Cure, in Cases the most evidently incurable. It is all one to 'em, who have nothing else in View, but the Temptation of Half in Hand, according to the old Mode of Quacking.

To propose a Remedy for recovering what has been pilfer'd of late, by this Exaction of Half in Hand, wou'd be a Task equally difficult with theirs, of curing incurable *Ruptures*. But if any Person injur'd that Way, has a Mind for his Money again, from *S—T—s*, let him consult one Mr. *J—s*, a *P—n*, *P—r*, at *R—r*, who can tell 'em how they

they may (as he did) come by it when they think proper.

However base and unbecoming such little tr—ng Ways may appear to the prudent and better Part of Mankind, they answer'd some Body's Ends. I shall therefore pass over these, with innumerable others, as not meriting my Notice, and leave 'em to be forgotten, as if they had never been perpetrated.

You was pleas'd to acquaint me, That Mr. *Bowles*, now with you, makes a mighty Noise about his never failing Secret; that he boasts himself capable to cure the most desperate of all *Ruptures*, and that he never fail'd in any one Case whatsoever; which, We here, call in plain *English*, working Miracles: To which the sincere Art of Medicine has hitherto (as far as I can learn) modestly and humbly acknowledg'd herself a Stranger. And that every where he talks loudly of a certain Person with us, who has been distinguish'd in an extraordinary Manner with Honours, and load-ed with Riches, only for a Part of *his* Secret.

I must own to you, Sir, That the Succes which attended some of his Gang here, in Point of Rewards for Cures said to be done, which were never perform'd, was as incredible as it was astonishing, and carried a fine Face of Triumph over the short-Reach, or over-Sight of the whole *Healing Faculty*, none of whom have been so happy as to penetrate into this Mystery.— But it wou'd be good News

to the World, that Pretensions so uncommon, cou'd alledge common Truth for their Foundation, and so claim common Justice for their Support.

Your long Experience gave you just Grounds to suspect the Truth of their Pretensions, and you and I are well appriz'd, That various and strange Methods, call'd Secrets, have been impos'd upon the World, for the Cure of this Disease, in different Ages, and in different Countries, which when reveal'd, and put to the Test, wou'd not answer the End; so only expos'd their bold presumptuous Pretenders, to that Contempt and Ridicule they justly deserve.

Provided this *Secret* shou'd prove like those, your Desire is to undeceive the Publick, that People may no longer be impos'd on, but rescu'd from the Hands of those, who wou'd hurt them in the two tenderest Points, their Health and their Fortune.

Your cautious Deliberation, before you'll either censure or approve, shews both an upright and publick spirited Intention. This equal and honest Method of inquiring after Truth, fits you for an Arbiter of the Affair; and since you have been pleas'd to single me out on so important an Inquiry, I shall endeavour to set the Whole in its true Light,

I am not insensible, that it is too commonly the Fate of the Person, who endeavours to give  
a

a true and faithful Account of any Thing extraordinary, to be branded with the odious Names of Defamer, or Libeller, &c. only because in telling the Truth, he's oft'n forc'd to relate some Weaknesses; *T—ks* Crimes, and other Impertinencies, which can't well bear the Light. But as these, and the like, are conducive to illustrate Truth, and in some Measure may have a Tendency to wipe off Aspersions unjustly thrown upon a Profession (whose Honour I have always had much at Heart) by the unware and ignorant; I am the less solicitous whom it may affect, seeing it was to comply with your just Request, that I here undertake to place the *Truth* of this Matter in a proper Light, and to vindicate the *Healing Art.*

Your Goodness, I hope, will excuse the following Narrative, however trifling, Facts may seem, seeing it is just as I had it from Mr. Bowles's own Mouth. But before I begin, I am to acquaint you, That his Name is *Richard Bowles*; that he was of that Sect call'd *Quakers*, and from *Ireland*. That it may be presum'd he had but few of these Indowments which turn Godliness into Gain, 'mongst his sanctified Fraternity. That seeing he cou'd not thrive as a spiritual *Q—k*, he wou'd try what he cou'd do by the Dint of a Receipt in Quacking, after a carnal Manner, much in use now-a-days 'mongst the Sons of Men. Thus at once he was equipt with a *Nostrum*, for curing *Ruptures* of all Sorts, which he said he purchas'd from one Mr. Shaw in *Ireland*.

The Manner of Mr. Shaw's becoming Master of this *Secret*, was as follows: His Father was a Merchant, whose Dealings call'd him in his declining Age to *Leghorn*, to settle Affairs with his Correspondents there; where complaining of a *Rupture*, which had formerly been somewhat troublesome to him, and was now more so from his Fatigue in Business, one of his Correspondents recommended to him a Quack, a *German*, who had been tampering with a Servant of his, who had a *Rupture*; and as this Stroler pass'd for a *Rupture Doctor*, he got a Name for that, among the Vulgar and Illiterate. When this Doctor was introduc'd to the *Irish Merchant*, his Poverty surpriz'd him not a little with just Suspicions of the Veracity of his Pretensions. His mean Behaviour, and vulgar Aspect (so uncustomary amongst regular Physicians) confirm'd him in his Distrust, and discourag'd him so far, that he declin'd coming under such Hands, and pretended that he had not Time to wait the Cure, because the Ship he was concern'd in, was to fail in a few Days.—But this Man, who had tried *Leghorn* too long, to entertain any Prospect of Success in that City, cou'd neither live there, nor had the Means of removing himself to some more hopeful Situation. Loth therefore to lose so good a Patient as the Merchant, he propos'd to go with him into *Ireland*, as his Doctor in Ordinary, which he gloss'd over with the Colour of his undertaking it, not only for the Benefit of the Merchant's Health, but for the Increase of his own Reputation,

Reputation, as being infallible in Point of Success. — Pain was pressing on one Side, and such sanguine Proffers of Assistance being made him on the other, it is not to be wonder'd, that Mr. Shaw, to whom Ease was so desirable, clos'd a Bargain with this officious Assistant, who at so cheap a Rate would take a Voyage for the Sake of a single Patient, and stake the Hopes of his future Fame and Fortune in a Foreign Country, upon that one particular Case. — In fine, it was agreed between 'em, and as Mr. Bowles tells the Story from the Mouth of Mr. Shaw the Son, who made the best of it, when he was about to sell him the *Secret*, his Father found some Ease, before he arriv'd in *Ireland*. But inquiring strictly into that Matter, I have learnt, That Mr. Shaw kept his Bed during the whole Time of the Voyage, and seeing all Authors agree in this, That Rest is the true *Panacea Herniarum*, it is thence indeed very probable, that the constant lying on his Back, might have facilitated the Reduction of the Intestine, which the Q — k no doubt retain'd by Means of his Flannel Bandage. — And thus far, without any great Skill, it might be true, That old Mr. Shaw had some Ease, as his Son said in his Voyage.

How long this poor Man liv'd in *Ireland*, Bowles does not say; but he assures us, That Mr. Shaw's Son, from whom he bought this *Arcanum*, had it from him before he dy'd.

We

We owe, I presume, our Knowledge of these mean Circumstances, relating to a *Secret* that now makes so much Noise in the World, to Mr. Shaw's disclosing them as a Motive to induce Bowles to purchase it, and Bowles continuing to relate them, that he might make good his own Title, from this so celebrated an Original. For like the *German*, he was *Poor*, *mean* of *Aspect*, and as *inelegant* and *rude* of Behaviour; so that he was *naturally*, and *equally* accomplished, and had no Reason to fear, but he might practise it with equal Success.

Thus according to Mr. Bowles himself, when we trace this *Secret* to its Source, we find it in the Hands of a Man without a Name. This renown'd *Nostrum*, that now brings in its several Hundreds of Pounds *per Annum*, to some more fortunate with us, was not capable of keeping its first pretended Inventor from Starving, amidst a Number of *Ruptur'd* People, as there must probably have been in such a trading and populous City as *Leghorn*, or even preventing his transporting himself to a Foreign Country, for the Lucre of one single Patient, where dying, he bequeathed this *Secret* to Mr. Shaw's Son, who with a good and safe Conscience, thought he might make as much Money of it, as he suppos'd his Father had laid out about it, and so sold it for a mere Trifle, to our Ingenious *Trambleur*.

We are now at last come from plain *Richard Bowles* the *Quaker*, to the Learn'd Dr. *Bowles*, to

to whom it wou'd be unfair not to allow an Appellation, which he as much deserv'd, and paid as good a Price for, as some other Eminent practising *Physicians*, whom I cou'd name, if it were necessary ; and he might certainly plead Skill enough, to become the Title of Doctor, after having made himself Master of this *Grande Remede*. Dr. *Bowles* then took Care to let the World know what Title he expected to be receiv'd by, and boasted highly of his Qualifications to support his new Dignity. — But it was his Lot to be more industrious in Endeavours to promote his Practice, than *Lucky* in obtaining it.

Yet seriously reflecting That he was not likely to live long there, he resolv'd not to die there ; like that unprofitable Q—k, who quietly delivered over his Talent hid in a Napkin to another. But firmly determin'd to make the most of his new Purchase, and that his inward Light shou'd shine forth in his Generation, he, for the same weighty Motives, which induc'd the Q—k to leave his Native Country, and *Italy*, viz. that he cou'd not get Bread by his Business, left *Ireland*, and made a Voyage to the City of *London*.

Here he exerted himself *pro viribus*, and tri'd all the Means he was capable of, to force himself into Practice. He held-forth in all Places of Resort, about the powerful Effects of his Remedies, but cou'd bring nothing to any Effect, that wou'd answser his Intentions. The obstinate, inorthodox Unbelievers of *London* (apt

(apt as they are to gape after Novelty) cou'd not be persuaded to commit their Bodies to his Management.

Whether this hapn'd to be the sad Case from not applying to proper Agents, or for Want of that necessary Stock both of Money to advertise, and Imp—ce to swear to Untruths, &c. Qualifications essentially requisite for those who impose *Secrets*, i. e.—*C—ts* on Mankind; or whether it was for Want of 'em altogether, I shall not (as its not very material) take up-on me here to determine.

However, I can, and do assure you, That Mr. Bowles met with so little Incouragement, that after a long Stay here, all Means proving Abortive, he could make nothing of it.— In vain he offer'd to sell it for Fifty Guineas to several Surgeons, and at last for Twenty.

It had been happy for him, if instead of proposing it to the Regular Surgeons, he had offered it to the bolder Genius's, in and about the Yards and Alleys of our Metropolis, who are of the Inlightn'd Clas, as well as himself, living generally at the Sign of one or two Lamps, and are to be spok'n with about all Sorts of Busines, from Nine to Twelve in the Morning, and from Three to Six in the Afternoon, and profess Astrology as well as Phy-sick.

These learn'd and profound Gentry, though they had overlook'd the Intrinfick Value of the Medicines,

Medicines, might have chanc'd to spy through the Stars, the good Fortune that was likely to attend some Body, — who came Luckily, though F — ly, into this *Rupture-Project*, at 50 l. which *Secret*, without ever laying down the Value of one Farthing, he got, and making up the Difference between the Buyer and the Seller, with a very few Guineas, he c — ly remain'd Master of the Prize.

Thus the unlucky Dr. *Bowles*, who cou'd by no Means make Twenty Pounds of this rare and valuable *Secret*, was forc'd to turn Back upon *London*, and once more try how the Fruits of his Skill wou'd thrive in its Native Soil of *Ireland*, whither he then return'd, and tarried for some Time, expecting better Luck from his repeated Labours, but still in vain, for the same ill-Fate attended him.

Resolving to try his Dexterity in some more fortunate Kingdom, he with Courage again ploughs the Seas and Lands next with his *Healing Art* in the West of *Scotland*. *Glasgow* is now the Scene of Action, where he pretends to have had flourishing Practice. But, be that as it will, I assure you, he soon practis'd himself out of all Busines. — And the next Trip this Itinerant Professor makes, is to *Edinburgh*; there he stay'd along Time, and loudly boasted of wonderful Cures he had perform'd in the West, in and about *Glasgow*; though by a Letter I have now in my Hands, from an Ingenuous and Eminent Surgeon in that Place, for all the Noise B — s made of the mighty Cures

Cures he had perform'd there, only one, out of the many said to be cur'd, was patch'd up, and this was a young Boy.

The discerning and wary People of *Edinburgh*, who had been often pester'd with such Q—ks, and their noisy Boastings of their kind Reception, at such and such Places, believing that *Friend Bowles* came rather for his own, than for their Sakes, i. e. more for their Money than their Health; and that he had not left *Glasgow*, because he had cur'd all their *Ruptures*, but because their Contempt of him was incurable, over-look'd and neglected this great Doctor, who was once more reduc'd to the last Resource of *Secret-mongers*, to propagate it as well as he cou'd, amongst the most Credulous of the Vulgar.

It was here that a certain lucky Person scrap'd Acquaintance with Mr. *Bowles*, by keeping the same mean Company, and frequenting the same little Places, & *viis & modis*, got the *Secret* from him. To trouble you with a particular Account of some Body's Management, from first to last, as I have it just now before me, wou'd swell this beyond its intended Limits, and at best prove but a disagreeable Entertainment. I shall therefore beg Leave to omit that Part, as if I had never rak'd into it, hoping that the Person whom it must have affected, may, by my Silence, be prevail'd upon to be a little more Modest for the Future, least Facts, which wont well bear mentioning, be (not much

much to some Persons Honour) display'd in all their Circumstances by another Hand.

I am the more readily mov'd to pass over such Things in this Manner, because I wou'd avoid giving some a Handle to insinuate, that I had reflected too freely on Persons. — I do assure you, Sir, it's with Reluctancy I am forc'd to what I do. — Facts, not Persons, being the Motives of my inquiring into this Matter, and I wou'd willingly gloss even them over in as slight a Manner, as is consistent with Truth.

The unsuccesful Dr. *Bowles*, after he had parted with his *Arcanum*, retir'd from *Edinburgh*, without any Consideration for it, and never saw the Person to whom he reveal'd it, till he met with him at *London* about Four Years ago.

This dextrous Attainment of the pretended *Secret*, was as little expected by all, who knew the Person, as it was surprising that he afterwards rais'd himself into so undue a Reputation by it. But the Manner how he and his Managers treated some Body, upon whose Foundations, however weak, he afterwards built himself a Fortune, shew him to be one of those Undertakers who stop at nothing that may further their Endeavours.

Were I to insist on this Transaction in all its Circumstances, I should only nauseate you and my Candid Readers. I shall therefore pass

it over, with many others, too tedious to be related here, and hasten to give an Account of the Success and Event of a certain Medicine-Adventure, which I wou'd have omitted also, had not a certain Person insisted, and does still, That his *Secret* was quite different from *Bowles's*. That the Person from whom he had it was dead, with innumerable other such—Mov'd, no doubt, to do so by his Agents, who well knew, that when a Person has once solemnly vouch'd a L--e, whatever might be his Motives, he's oblig'd afterwards to maintain it, for his own Credit, if he has any; and if he has not, he is not an Evidence to be regarded.

No sooner had this Person elop'd from his Righteous Master, whom by Contract he was bound to serve one Year certain, to pay 50 l. for the *S*—t; to give the Half of what he made by it in *N. B*, and not to practise in *S. B*, under Pain of 400 l. &c. as the Contract it self more fully bears, &c. Then to practise he went, and where he patch'd up One, he gave out he had cur'd Twenty.

A certain Nobleman, who was reserv'd, and unwilling to expose his Infirmity, and liv'd in a Corner of the Country, at a great Distance from any Surgeons of Note, sent for the Lucky Spark, whose Pretensions have given Occasion to my present Purpose; and after his long Stay, became easier; because the Intestine, by frequent Purging, being emptied, was easily reduc'd, and then, as easily retain'd with a Bandage,

dage, which, together with the Hardning of the Skin over the Breach, patcht him up for a Little. Thus was this Noble Person so much encourag'd, that he even gave it out he was cur'd, and became lavish in Praise of his Benefactor, and so his Fame began to spread. — Upon strict Enquiry, I can assure you, he's worse now than ever.

Another Noble Person, since dead, of the same Quality with the former, labouring under the like Indisposition, put himself into his Hands. He was far advanc'd in Years, almost Bedridden, or when up, always in a Chair; and as he did easily put it up with his own Hand, when on his Back, and us'd no Exercise, the Difficulty in retaining, or keeping it up, cou'd not be great. These occasion'd his being talk'd of, by some of the Noblemen's Relations, who procur'd his being sent for to a certain Person, yet uncured, said to be in the P—'s Service: But not to His R—H—s, as was industriously giv'n out.

He had not long visited at the H. in L—r F—s, before he began to display his Talent of F—g, and every where proclaim'd he had wrought a wonderful Cure on the P—, which no Man living but himself cou'd do. — Letters were prepar'd and produc'd by him in all Companies, extolling him for his amazing Cures upon Madam —, my Lord —, or my Lady —, professing how happy they shou'd think themselves, cou'd they oftner be favour'd with his Company, with a

thousand other such mean indirect Ways, to blaze about his Fame, and raise his Reputation.

However ridiculous these Ways were to Men of Sense, yet they made deeper Impressions than can be well imagin'd, and together with a certain Boy (whom by the Bye any old Nurse might have cur'd) related to some, then in a distinguish'd Station at Court, contributed much to the Advance of his Fame.

Some Physicians too, not examining into the Bottom, were drawn in to believe mighty Matters, because a few silly *Ruptur'd* People, whose *Ruptures* had been lessen'd, by being reduc'd in Part, hop'd and fancy'd they were cur'd, and every where giving out they were so, (as most troubl'd that Way are too apt to do) magnified the Wonders wrought upon them.

Even an eminent Person who had much of His M—y's Ear, was so far impos'd on by those ill-grounded Reports, that he effectually (tho' not designedly) did this Person's Busines with His M— He innocently related what had been told him; and though he was not a little astonish'd, at the Oddness of the Cures, said to have been wrought, yet he did not question their Truth, out of Respect to those who reported them.

Thus were mighty Things asserted, which had never been performed, and great Advances

ces were made, before this Person was undeceiv'd. By which Time it was too late; for the first Accounts had made too deep Impressions, to be remov'd by any subsequent Representations.

His Sacred Majesty, at whose Princely Heart nothing lies nearer, than the Good of his People, no sooner heard of, than he determin'd to encourage the Author of so extraordinary a Benefit, by a Distinction that shou'd be equally extraordinary.—But resolving that his Bounty shou'd be founded on the Merit of its Object, he restrain'd the first Impressions of His Royal Purpose, till he had made some Enquiry into the Reality of this applauded Discovery.—Nay, to such Excess of Condescension was he carried, by the Earnestness of his Zeal, to reward a Good that might be done his Subjects, that laying aside the Majesty of his high Condition, he was pleas'd in Person to examine into the Validity of this Affair, which had made so great a Noise in his Palace.

With a Prudence equal to his Generosity, he consulted those, who were most likely to inform him of the Truth, and was graciously pleas'd to issue out His Royal Orders, that the Effect of this *Arcanum* shou'd be try'd on some of his own Domesticks; accordingly Two of His Household (who then labour'd under this Indisposition) were singl'd out for the Experiment.

Such was His Majesty's Tendernes, and such too His Caution, that he vouchsaf'd to give special and strict Orders about their *Ruptures*, as well for their Relief, as for Justice to the Remedy, and in Case of Success, that the same shou'd be turn'd to a Publick Benefit.

Such Turns were from Time to Time giv'n, in the Reports which were made to His Majesty, of the Circumstances of their advancing Cure, as still confirm'd him more and more of the Truth of all that had been suggested. And after much Rest, and several Months Purging, their Intestines, &c. being reduc'd, artful Methods were us'd to get some, but not these Physicians and Surgeons, who by His Majesty's special Orders were commanded to inspect into the Validity of the Cure and to make their Report, then by an Artifice, of a Piece with the Rest, a Representation was made as best suited the Ends propos'd; so that His most Excellent Majesty, not doubting but that they were Cur'd, as they asserted, gave the more readily into their Proposals.

And, That the Reward might be the larger, great Care was tak'n by the Agents of the Party chiefly interess'd, to render the Man as considerable as it was possible. A Diploma forsooth (to the great Disgrace of the Granters) was procur'd, that he might pass for a Doctor, *Pro medico haber i volo & etiam medicum facere posse me factio cui harum rerum scientiam tradidero*, Socr. in Phædr. For this Effect, Application

plication was made to the Lords, and others Commissioners of the R — 1 Hospital of *Chelsea*, that this great Doctor shou'd be constituted and appointed *Rupture Doctor* of the said Hospital, which was no sooner ask'd than granted, and the following Advertisement was obligingly drawn up, and sent by a Friend to the *Gazette* of February the 13th 1722.

*Whereas several Pensioners, belonging to the Royal Hospital near Chelsea, have been cur'd of very large Ruptures, by Dr. Thomas Renton, and there being a great many out and in-Pensioners disabl'd. These are to give Notice, That the Lords, and others Commissioners for the Affairs of the said Hospital, have thought fit to appoint the said Dr. T — R, to undertake the Cure of all out and in-Pensioners afflicted with Ruptures, to the End that such disabl'd Persons do repair to the said Hospital, where they may be cur'd by the said Dr. Renton.*

By Order, *Kingsmill Eyre*, Secretary.

This Advertisement afforded much Speculation. — Reflections upon the Promoters were unavoidable, by many who were justly incens'd, and angry to see the Publick impos'd on, and ashäm'd of the Levity, or Self-Interestedness of the Contrivers.

They were amaz'd to see that Friend so active in this Affair, and pushing it forward to such a

Length. They thought he cou'd not be so ignorant, as not to know the Impossibility of their Pretensions; nor so weak as to fancy a purging Powder, and a trifling Caustick, infallible in the Cure of all Sorts of *Ruptures*. — And when some People will allow their Good Nature to assert for Truths, such Pretences of those they wish well to, as in themselves are morally impossible, how can they hope to escape Censure ?

To tell you how they amus'd the World, and how Court and Country here resounded with the mighty Feats of their *Arcanum Doctor*, and how every Body was pester'd with the Noise of miraculous Cures perform'd by this Rarity ; but more especially to point out their unbecoming, little Artifices, wou'd fix a deeper Stain on some Folks Ch—rs, than they are aware of. — But

— *Pudet Hac opprobria nobis  
Et dici potuisse & non potuisse Reselli.* Ovid.

These were not so privately transacted, as to be conceal'd from every Body ; nor is it in their Power to hinder some from believing, that their Activity was incited by the Hopes of Sharing the Reward :

*O Sceleratum Pecuniae Aucupium !  
Quid non mortalia pectora cogis Audere.*

A dark Veil wou'd much better become such Actions, and I shall leave the Story to be lost and forgotten, for the Honour of the Nation.

Having hitherto met with no Opposition, and by shewing the Parts reduc'd, prepar'd and prepossess'd His M——y. — They next presum'd to advise his purchasing their Infallible *Secret*, and in Consequence of that good Council, a Sign'd Manual entitl'd 'em to no less than 5000 l. 500 l. per *Annum*, and the Person himself distinguish'd by the Fountain of Honour, and erected into no less than the Worshipful, Sr. T. R.

I must own to you, Sir, when I first heard it, I cou'd scarce allow my self to give it Credit. — I stood amaz'd to see how far designing Men cou'd go, and thought immediately on the old Story of *Pyrrhus* and *Ulysses*. — When they were sent to *Lemnos*, to take from *Philoctetes* the Arrows of *Hercules*. The two Legates advis'd by what Means they might best wrest 'em out of his Hands. *Ulysses* propos'd Lying and Deceit; no, said *Pyrrhus*, I like not that Course, because I never us'd it, but always lov'd the Truth, as my Father and my Ancestors have ever done. Whereunto *Ulysses* reply'd, That when he was a young Man, he was of his Mind too; but now being Old, he had learn'd by long Experience, dearly bought, That the surest Art in Man's Life is, *Fallere & Mentiri*.

Now,

Now, Sir, notwithstanding this uncommon Reward, which exalts the Royal Bounty of our King, above any Example of our own, or of former Ages ; yet these two Persons, singl'd out at Court, for Proof of their *Secret*, remain uncur'd to this Day ; as does also *Obadiah Swift*, an Anchor-Smith at *Rotherhithe*, so much boasted for the greatest Cure was ever perform'd.—Together with the B—, r in *Bond-street*.—The G—n in L—r Fields. C— G— s Ch. S. W. G—  
D—r A. C. W. P. H, &c. And indeed all (of above Twenty Five Years of Age) out of that numerous List, which was giv'n in to His M—y, as having been absolutely and perfectly cur'd.

I doubt not, but that it will appear to you, Sir, somewhat strange, that in an Age so Philosophical and refin'd as this, in a Nation which can as justly boast of the most exact and ablest Artists, as of the most Learn'd and accomplish'd Gentlemen, and particularly of as able and experienc'd Physicians, as dextrous and compleat Surgeons, as any upon Earth : Creatures illiterate and impudent, base Quacks (the Contempt of all who know 'em) shou'd be thus encourag'd for infallible Curers of *Ruptures*, only because they have Assurance to call their Method a *Secret*, which in Reality is no other than the common Methods mention'd by all Authors, as shall be made plainly evident, from their own Words in the subsequent Pages.

This

This Country of ours, Sir, has been long, and eminently remark'd for believing with Difficulty what they may see plainly: But let any Proposition wear the Face of a Mystery, and straight the Bait becomes infallible, how little infallibility foever there may be in the *Secret!*

We need go no further for a Proof, than to the Advertisements in our daily Papers, where to the Reproach of our Credulity, we have Toy-Shops stuff'd with Cures for the most incurable Diseases. Who cou'd imagine that *Anodyne-Necklace*, usher'd into the World by old *P---l Chamberlaine*, as one of these infallible Relicks for Women in hard Labour, hastning their Deliveries if but worn as Garters, shou'd have so ridiculously risen into Use and Reputation, ev'n among our Ladies of good Sense and Condition, and produce so many Thousand Crowns to its Contriver, when in Reality those Beads (or as they nam'd them, *Anodyne Necklace*) were only turn'd into that Form, out of Bones, no Matter, whether of Horses, or of any other Animals.

I will entertain you by Way of Sample, with an Advertisement relating to this fine Necklace, and leave you to judge whether the good-humour'd old Doctor, who lent his Name to such a pauly Trifle, wou'd not for a Consideration proportionably larger, have recommended a Pig's Tail for the same Purpose.

A Gentlewoman having had about a Year ago, a very long, hard and difficult Labour, being again just ready to lye in, was very apprehensive of such another bad Time. On the 29th of May last, about Seven of the Evening, she found herself a little out of Order, and being very fearful, having her former bad Time fresh in her Memory, she was advis'd to wear the celebrated *Anodyne Necklace*, recommended by Dr. Paul Chamberlaine, for Children's Teeth, Women in hard Labour, and Distempers of the Head. Two of 'em were immediately sent for, and presently put on her, by Way of Garters. She had not wore 'em above an Hour and Half, but she was delivered of an extraordinary fine Boy, and this with such Dispatch and Ease, that by Nine a Clock it was all over, and the Mother in such a fine easy Condition, as no-body ever expected ; all which not only herself, but the Midwife, Nurse, and others about her, attributed to this Sovereign Remedy.

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*Risum teneatis Amici.*

*Quoties de medicamentorum suorum dotibus aliquid deblaterandum est, nihil non mendacii Effluunt, quo suos popello fumos venaliores Reddant, nihil non nugarum Comminiscuntur.* Fevin. de Abus. Med. p. 9.

With such Advertisements our daily Papers are pester'd.—Quackery of all Kinds is here universally encourag'd, and however silly this may

may appear to the Judicious and Learn'd with you, (who must laugh while they pity Us) we have Stones, not worth one Farthing, sold Current for Five Guineas, as a *perfect, present,* and *infallible Remedy* for the *Gout*, not very much (one wou'd be apt to think) to the Honour of those, who give-in to such ridiculous Trumperies.—*O Tempora! O mores! Magistratus Intelligit: Principes vident: Hi tamen Impostores in malignitate sua Pergunt; Pergunt imo vero etiam Inscitiam defendunt: ab aliis nihilominus vocantur & consulantur & interim tamen fallunt unumquemq; Aegrotum.* G. Adolph. Scribon.

*Marcelin de Boix*, Physician to His most Catholick Majesty, as eminent for his great Skill in Physick, as he was remarkable by his sincere Inclinations for the Good of the Publick, in his *Hippocrat. Defendido Madrid 1711*, says, That Impostors, who pretend to cure all Diseases, with a few *Secrets*, and all ignorant Quacks, who make bold to physick Mankind, and trick People out of their Lives and Money, shou'd be condignly punish'd, the State clear'd of such Vermin, and they sent to the Gallies; a Punishment they with much greater Reason deserve to undergo, than many who are daily condemn'd to it.

What's more discouraging to Men of Letters, Sir, who have regularly accomplish'd themselves for their Profession, than to see these ignorant Quacks, intercepting their due Encouragement? Of what Prejudice must it be to a liberal

liberal Education, and of what Hindrance to a vigorous Prosecution of Studies? But above all, what Notions (to the great Disadvantage of the whole Profession) must it imprint on the Minds of our People of Quality, &c. who not concerning themselves, to pry into the Essentials of Art, and take Things on Trust, as they are offer'd in Conversation.

Yet were it possible, for these great Men to be unconcern'd for their own Memory, even for the Present, merely, and during their own Time, it wou'd still be of some Importance to 'em to stand Fair with Men of Letters, and Ingenuity, and to have the Reputation of being favourable to their *Art* and Faculty, be their Stations never so exalted.

The Subversion of their Priviledges, who are Retainers to the *Healing* Faculty has been attempted, not only by the open Assaults of Quacks and others, its profess'd Enemies; but also by some of the Sons of Art, who being sour'd at their Disappointments, have rail'd not only against Learning in general, but against their own Profession in Particular, which having render'd despicable, they wou'd teach others to despise also, and wou'd (it seems) if they cou'd, ev'n over-throw the whole Art it-self.

But, I hope, there are still amongst us, those, who for the Dignity of so useful a Profession, and the Good of the Publick, will with Alacrity support and encourage it in the right Manner,

Manner, by a generous and impartial Regard to Learning and true Merit.

Some (unlike their own Conduct) have exerted their utmost to expose their own Profession, in a few t — g Treatises, which seem to have been publish'd for the Sake of their Prefaces; wherein, they have indulg'd their verbose Talents, with Railing at the Ancient Fathers of Phyfick, and some of their Modern Commentators.

I wish it mayn't be found by equitable Judges, that these Gentlemen have rather expos'd their own, than the *Weakness* or Deficiencies of the wise Ancients. — It is an Arrogance (says a late Elegant Writer) peculiar to some of our Age and Nation, to despise the most Learn'd and Celebrated Writers in their own Profession. — p. 305.

*Hippocrates, Plato, Aristotle, &c.* made greater Progresses in the several Sciences, than any of their Successors have been able since to reach — And are inimitable in their several Kinds, S. W. T.

That the Ancients will never want a strong Party among the Wise and Learn'd of every Age. — That their Applause is just because found. — That the more the Age is enlightn'd the more they'll shine. — That their Fame must last as long as Letters. — And Posterity will ever own their Merit. *Adv. to an A. L — S — y.*

Galen,

*Galen*, who was not only the best Physician, but the best Scholar and Critick of his Time, owns *Hippocrates* to be Divine, and publisheth the same in all his Writings, and says, that all that was Good in Physick, sprung from him.—That this Father of Phyfick, was of all Physicians, the most diligent and industrious.

A plain Mark (says Mr. *Le Clerc*) of the Esteem that all Ages have had for the Writings of *Hippocrates*, is, that there's scarce any Author, who has had so many Commentators.—His Aphorisms are a Work above Human Capacity.

*Omnium primus admirationem sustulit* (says the Learn'd *Duretus*) in Coac. p. 210. 30.—*Vеритatis medicæ Tribunal.*—p. 280.—3. *Hippocratem ducem si sequamur nunquam aberrabimus.*—p. 281.—12.

That the Writings of *Hippocrates*, wou'd afford greater Knowledge in one Day, than all the Modern Practitioners in one Age, says *Marcelin de Boix, Hippo. Defendido Madrid.*

How much (says the Experienc'd and Candid *Sydenham*) the Ancients, and amongst the Chief, *Hippocrates*, have perform'd in the *Healing Art*, is well known? From whom, and whose Writings we have receiv'd the best Part of the Therapeuticks.—The Theory of this Divine Old Man, was not drawn from a vain Fancy,

Fancy, but it exhibited a Legitimate History of these Operations of Nature, which she produces in the Diseases of Men.

*Hippocrates* (says Dr. Oliver) of whom it has been said, that he had not his Fellow in the *Medical Art*, is the first Author, we have among our Records in Phyfick; and I wish I cou'd say, any-body since him, has given us a more Rational Account of Fevers. —— *Hippocrates's Precepts, and Observations*, being all founded on Nature, contain in them, the Juyce or Marrow of Practice, and the true Spirit of Phyfick; which must be always useful to the End of the World. —— Reason, Experience and Observation, are the best Foundations of the *Art of Healing*.

*Hippocrates* (says *Severinus*) our Great Master, was fir'd with a singular Zeal and Love for the *Healing Art*, which he enlarg'd and cultivated above all Mankind. —— Never Man was at more Pains. —— Never Man knew more. His Excellent Precepts will be of Use to the End of Time, *Severin. C* — 9.

*Hippocrates* (says *Vanhorn*) not only understood every Branch of Phyfick, but gave us a perfect Cure for all Diseases, as may be seen in his *Lib. de Morbis*, and in these Chirurgical Cases scatter'd in his Book of *Epidemics*, p. 8.

*Pessime* (says *Th. Bartholine*) *studiis suis consulant, Qui recentiorum scriptis se Immer-*  
F *gunt,*

*gunt, ut Veteres vel negligunt vel Contemnunt  
quam plerarumque rerum Lux ex illis Pendeat.*

I only (says the A—B—p of *Cambray*) advise the Men, that adorn our Age, not to give way to a Contempt of those who have by so many Ages been admir'd.

It becomes us (says Serj. *Bernard*) to speak of the Ancients with Respect and Civility at least, if it were only for this, that it was for our Instruction, and the Benefit of Mankind in General, which induc'd 'em to take that Care, and to be at so much Expence of Time and Labour to communicate their Knowledge to the World.

*Hippocrates* and *Galen* (says the Learn'd Dr. *Harris*) will be ever famous to after-Ages, because their Works are full of good Sense, well-digested Principles, and undeniable Truths; and those who keenly speak against them, and rail at their Labours with much Earnestness, either do not understand 'em, or are very morose in their Natural Tempers.

I am (says the Eloquent—Dr. F—d, that very good Judge) apt to believe upon an Impartial Enquiry, it will appear, that it was upon very good Grounds, that *Hippocrates* and *Galen*, and their Successors, have been all along reckon'd the great Lights and Fathers of the Faculty; and that such an Universal Defence has been pay'd to their Writings, thro' an

an Uninterrupted Succession of many Centuries.

*Hippocrates* (says the Eminent Sir *John Floyer*) was a most Judicious and Rational Physician, and the most Learn'd Founder of our Faculty. —— And in Pag. 107, *Hippocrates* and *Galen* have laid the Foundations of Physick, upon which we ought to build and improve, to observe all the sensible Qualities in Medicines, and diseas'd Humours, and never recede from the Foundations they have laid, for any general Hypothesis, how curious soever.

Volumes might soon be fill'd with the like just Encomiums, the Learn'd of all Ages and Nations have giv'n *Hippocrates*, *Galen*, and other wise and well-deserving Ancient Physicians; but as I have already trespass'd on your Time and Patience, by a Digression (however it may be to others) must be tedious to one of your Univerſal Reading, I hope you'll forgive me, when I assure you, that such an Unjust Treatment of the Ancients, by some with us, calls for the severest Censure. And though their Characters are too well establish'd to suffer any Impair (with the Judicious and Learn'd) from such Detractors, whose Impotent Artillery is only thereby turn'd against themselves, and their Weakness, &c. &c. &c. not that of the Founder's of the Faculty expos'd. — Yet such Insinuations (as unjust in themselves, as they are unworthy of their Dictator) whatever Way they were design'd,

have already had this Cursed Effect, to open Flood-Gates for Inundations of Illiterate Quacks, who with full Mouth quote these Gentlemen's own Words to countenance their Impostures, and give the better Colour to their v——s Impositions.

Let such then, who have taken such Liberties with the Ch——rs of the wise Ancients, and reflected so keenly on the Founders of a Noble and Useful Profession, wherein themselves made once a Conspicuous Figure, lay their Hand on their Breast, and consider the Consequences of such Railing. And let 'em not forget, that had they been as Intent in studying *Hippocrates's Works*, &c. as they have been on *W——l, P——k, T——s*, foreign to their Profession, they had acted more consistently with their own Character, and had laid 'emselves less open to the just Censure of others. —— And that had Some been better acquainted with Modern Discoveries, or had allowed themselves Time to consult Dr. *Helvetius's Boule Medicamenteuse*, they had not been drawn in to such rash and profuse Praises of a certain *B——k S——k*, said to be discovered by one Dr. *E——n*. — That it wou'd be of more Service to Mankind, than all the Discoveries made by *Galenical Compounders of Drugs and Systematick Methodists*.

*Fit igitur ex tam prava & Insula opinione  
quam de Medicina passim homines Conceperunt ut  
eam non Artem, sed Nescio, quid leve tantum &  
fortuito*

*fortuito Collectum estle putent.* — Seidel. de Morb: Incurab.

These rash Encomiums from such noted Pens, wanted not their Weight somewhere; nor did the pretended Disc—r lose any Time, but with the utmost Industry, got the same translated into *French*, *Dutch*, and other foreign Languages, (*A-la-mode de Anodyne*) in Half Sheets, with the Fame of which our whole Country resounded. — And upon a certain Emergency, when some of the Faculty were about asserting their Priviledges, this Exceller of Antiquity, one of these two Happy Mortals, who have made so great Noise of late, in our Parts, with their New and Modern Discoveries, unknown to this and former Ages, was c — ly led in to exhibit an In—t P—n, and though unknown to himself, he was made a Tool to serve some Body's Intentions, and his wonderful B—k S—k, and of which the Faculty cou'd be no Way judges, was us'd as a Handle to oppose the well-intend-ed Measures, the Colledge at that Time was pursuing for the Good of the Publick.

This brings to my Mind what the Learn'd *Forestus* said to *Heurnius*, *Facere non possum, quin eo, quo debeo dolore Afficiar, & Justos Endam Gemitus miseratione hujus delirantis temporis, & Statys Medicinae,* For. de Incert. Ur. Jud.

Now after all the Charges, and other Wavs us'd, in obtaining a Patent for this Ingenious,

New Discovery, of a Non-such Balsamick Stiptick, so much commended by some, so often thrown in the Teeth of the whole Profession, &c. it may appear pretty singular, and perhaps be look'd on as a bold Assertion: To affirm that Dr. *Helvetius's Boule Medicamenteuse* will do all that this, so renown'd newly discover'd B——k F——k can do.

I am heartily sorry, Sir, I can conclude this long and tedious Answer to your curious Letter, no otherwise, than by assuring you, that the present State of Physick, with us, is such as affords but a Melancholly Prospect to all the Regular Sons of Art.—That the Encroachments daily made upon the whole Profession are such as only tend to the slackning of the Strings of true Industry in that Study.— That by the unusual Encouragement Pretenders to *S—ts* and *Nostrums* meet with here, the Whole is like to degenerate into open Empiricism.

For who? 'Mongst the Generality of Mankind, wou'd be at the Pains (were they capable of improving by Study) to waste so much Time, Strength, Substance, &c. so absolutely requisite for arriving at any tolerable Degree of Knowledge in Physick; cou'd they but have Wealth, and what most of Mortals here struggle for, by a shorter and more Concise Way, i. e. by Pyrating an Author or two, changing the *Recipe* into a Mystery or *Secret*, and then by the meer Dint of two most prevailing Qualities, Crown their Hopes with Succes, &c.

By

By these, and such like pretty Contrivances, and mighty honest Methods, the good-natur'd People of this wealthy Island (worthy of a better Fate) may perhaps feel, and be subject-ed to all the Inconveniencies, which the Defect of able, learn'd, and experienc'd Masters of the *Healing Art*, and the multiplying of Cheats, and Inf — t Quacks can produce. — — — *Sed hæc est Artis medice fatalis quædam conditio, ut perpetuo sub ea Lateant homines Φιλαργει & Impostores Audacissimi, Qui non artis Cognitionem affectent, sed ex artis Umbra ac Titulo, solum Lucrum, & Unicum turpem quæstum Venentur* — — — Rudolphus Camerarius.

When Learning and Modesty are overlook'd and neglected, while their Contraries are hug'd and crown'd with Succes. — When Truth is eclips'd by what is diametrically Opposite to it. — When Q — ks, &c. equipt with a *Nostrum*, shall supply the Places of deserving *Artists*. — Then shall a certain noble and useful prof — n suffer, and be threaten'd with the same Confusions, and involv'd in the same lamentable State, with that so justly complain'd of, by that Ingenious, Learn'd, and truly disinterested Physician, Dr. Menjot, which for the Satisfaction of the Curious I have here subjoin'd.

Let those then who thrive by pursuing such Measures, obtain their little Ends, their Honours and Applauses, &c. Be it our Endeavour, as it is our Duty, to do Justice to the

Ancient Founders of our Faculty : To give Honour to whom Honour is due : To admire 'em for their Integrity and great Skill in the *Healing Art* : To study and recommend the diligent and careful Perusal of their Astonishing Labours, and then with the Learn'd in all Ages, and in all Nations, we shall be sensible of their true Worth and Usefulness, and thereby be enabl'd Honestly and Skilfully to discharge our Duty each in our several Branches, in that right Manner as they did ; which is the sincere and earnest Wish of him who can boast of nothing in this tedious Answer, but of the Sincerity of his weak Endeavours, to place Truth in a proper Light, for the Sake and Honour of the *Healing Faculty*, and of the Pleasure he has of telling You and the World, with what Respect and Sincerity he is,

S I R,

*Your Most Humble,*

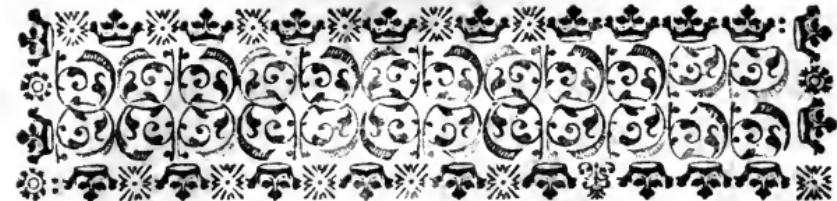
*And Most Obedient Servant,*

**R. H.**

*Vide Menjot's Letter in the Appendix, which was to have been here subjoin'd.*

The following is a full and True Copy of their *Secret*, as I had it from a Physician, to whom Mrs. Bowles delivered it, written and signed with her own Hand.

**T H E**



THE  
TRUE RECEIPT  
OF THAT  
*Valuable SECRET,*  
For CURING all Sorts of  
RUPTURES  
IN  
*Men, Women, and Children.*

For one Branch whereof the King gave *Thomas Renton* 5000 l. in Money, 500 l. per Annum, &c.

The Specifick POWDER.

1. TAKE of the Fine Powder of COMFRY Roots, seven Ounces, Jalap one Ounce, and Succotrine Aloes one Ounce, Loaf Sugar in Powder one Ounce, wherein may be dropt one Dram of Oil of Cinnamon, Anise, or Carraways, incorporate

porate 'em well with any of these Oils the Party likes best, then add the others, mix 'em all well together in a Mortar, and put it up in a close Tin-Box for Use. The Dose is from Twenty to Thirty Grains.

2. A Plaister made of Oxycroceum, and Paracelsus's, of each Equal Parts melted together over a slow Fire.

3. A Fomentation, made of St. John's Wort, Small Century, Red-Rose Leaves, Wormwood, Melilot Flowers, Rosemary Flowers, of each a Handful, boil all in three Quarts of Water, to three Pints over a slow Fire close covered, then add one Quart of Claret, let it boil a little, then let it cool, and bottle it for Use when strain'd.

4. Another Fomentation, Take Mustard Seed, four Ounces bruis'd, boil it in a Quart of Water ten Minutes, then take it from the Fire, cool it, and strain it for Use.

5. A Poultice, Take Hemlock Roots fresh, White Lilly Roots of each an Equal Quantity, boil them over a slow Fire, with a very little Water, and when tender, and the Water boild from them, beat 'em in a Marble Mortar to a Pap, and put 'em in a Gally-Pot for Use.

6. The Caustick, which is the best Oil of Vitriol, it must be put in a Phial, with a Glass Stopple.

7. A Silver Caustick, to be kept in a Phial close stopt from the Air.

8. A Plaister of Adherniam, these being provided, are to be us'd as follows, The Powder at Fig. 1. is to be given one Dose every Day, to expell Wind, before the Use of the Caustick, Fig. 6. mix it well in a Glass of Aniseed-Water, Tea, or Cold Water in the Morning, Fasting an Hour after it. Let the Patient take it for five or six Days. When you find the Gut is emptied of Wind and clotted Excrements, and that it goes back to its Place by laying the Party on their Back, then feel the Place where the Breach is, afterwards put the Oil of Vitriol in a China Cup, having in Readiness some Water in a Cup, a good many soft Rags, a Bandage of the thinnest Flannel. Then dip your Finger in the Oil of Vitriol, and rub the Part, where the Breach, is well, then let it dry in, and wash your Finger in Water, then dip it in the Oil again, and rub the Part. So continue till you see the Skin look White, like a Blister, then when the Oil is dry'd in, apply the Plaister at Fig. 2. being spread upon Leather, and a thick Bolster of Rags upon the Plaister, then put the Bandage on, in two Days apply a new Plaister, and then renew it every other Day, till it begins to suppurate, and run Matter, which will be in seven, eight, nine or ten Days, then apply a Plaister every Day, and when the Eschar comes off, which commonly is within fourteen Days, touch the Sore with the Silver Caustick at Fig. 7. and as often as there is any proud Flesh, its to be us'd, and the Plaister

fter still renewed every Day. The Party is to lie on their Back every Time they are dress'd; and is to keep from all violent Exercise. Continue the Powder once a Day during the Cure, and when the Sore is healed, apply a Plaister, upon the Part, of Adherniam at Fig. 8. and in Case the Gut will not reduce, after the Use of the Powder, as before directed, then the Fomentation, at Fig. 3. is to be us'd, as hot as can be suffer'd, for the Space of an Hour twice a Day, till it reduce; and if it dont do, then use the Fomentation at Fig. 4. the same Way, and if that dont do, apply the Poultice at Fig. 5. as hot as the Patient can suffer it, and if after using all these, it dont reduce, conclude there is an Adhesion, that is, the Gut growing to some of the Parts, and so not Curable, but this rarely happens.

The good Effects of this Powder is such, that it not only Cures Ruptures, by the Method directed, if Curable, but also gives Ease to those not Curable, and also Cures Windy Cholicks, and gives Ease in Fits of the Stone and Gravel. It creates a good Appetite, and helps Digestion. Give it in Aniseed-Water, or Usquebach, and if it does not give Ease, and purge in six Hours, give a second, and if not then, give a third, and if not then, give a Clyster.

Clyster, made of Mallows, Marsh Mallows, Chamomel Flowers, of each one Handful, Juniper Berries bruis'd an Ounce, Bay Berries two Drams, sweet Fennel Seeds one Dram, bruise 'em all, and boil 'em in a Quart of Water, to a Pint,

Pint, strain and dissolve Lenitive Electuary, one Ounce, Oil of Chamomel half an Ounce.

### The POWDER for CHILDREN.

Take the Roots of Solomon's Seal, in fine Powder, five Ounces, Powder of Jalap one Ounce and a half, Cocheneal half a Dram, Loaf Sugar one Ounce, drop upon it half a Dram of Oil of Anise, or Carraways, mix 'em, and put it up in a Tin-Box, Dose ten Grains to twenty, in their Victuals, or in Tea, or any Liquor they will take it in, which not only cures 'em by the Method before directed, but will also Cure 'em with a Convenient Bandage, that keeps up the Rupture, by giving it, a Month or six Weeks, every Day. It also Cures Children of the Gripes.

### The Method of CURING a Watery Rupture.

1. Purge with Jalap in fine Powder twenty Grains, Rheubarb ten Grains, Sweet Mercury six Grains, Oil of Cinnamon two Drops, mix and make a Bolus with any Syrup.

2. A Fomentation made of Garden Valerian, Rosemary Flowers, each a Handful, boil 'em half an Hour into two Quarts of Red-Wine, cool and strain it for Use.

3. A Poultice made of fresh COMFRY Roots, bruise'd in a Mortar, until it's smooth like a Conserve, as you beat it, throw in by Degrees some Hungary Water, and put it in a Gally-Pot for Use.

4. The

4. *The Astringent Draught of Rook's Liver,*  
*well dry'd and powder'd three Drams, Red Saun-*  
*ders two Drams, boil 'em in two Quarts of*  
*French Claret, to three Pints, over a slow Fire,*  
*well cover'd till boil'd, then strain and bottle it*  
*for Use.*

5. *The Acid Spirit of Salt.*

6. *The Dressings with Natural Balsam and  
 Red Precipitate.*

Now begins the CURE.

Let the Patient be purg'd with the Bolus at Fig. 1. for six Times once in two Days, so as to have five or six Stools at a Time. — Then use the Fomentation at Fig. 2. for two Days, then make an Incision in the depending Part of the Scrotum, to let out the Water, the Wound is to be kept open with soft Dossills, dipt in the Stuff at Fig. 6. till it run digested Matter, so as to destroy the Cystis, or Bag, which contain'd the Water; when that is done, and it begins to heal, then let the Patient drink a Sack Glass of the Astringent Drink at Fig. 4. with thirty or forty Drops in it of that at Fig. 5. once a Day, till the Wound is quite healed. Then apply the Poultice at Fig. 3. to be laid all over the Part, till it is strong, and renue as often as there is Occasion, for eight Days purging, with the Bolus as before directed, for five or six Times, [and then the Cure is compleated.

N. B. *The Party is to be kept very warm in Bed, during the Cure; and all People troubl'd with Ruptures of any Kind, must refrain from Malt Liquor, or Garden Stuff, or Fish of any Kind, Milk or Butter, or Pickles, or Vinegar, during their Cure.*

## Katherine Bowles.

This mighty *Arcanum*, being no longer a *Secret*, to our Part of the World, it now remains, to inquire how far it has been so, to those of the Profession here, or in other Parts. And that I may deal fairly with their *Quondam Secret*, as well as plainly with these, who made their Fortunes by it, and with those who so wisely, and so prudently push'd the Purchasing of it, out of no Sordid, no Selfish Views, but from the Noble and Generous Principles of Publick Spiritedness, so well becoming such Advisers, who roundly assur'd the Publick, that great Cures were perform'd on P——rs, who died uncur'd. — That their *Grande Arcanum Doctor* was arriv'd for the Good of His M——s *Ruptur'd Subjects*, &c. &c. &c.

But in a more Particular Manner, that I may do Justice to *Truth*, and vindicate an Honourable Profession, from the Aspersions thrown upon it, by Ignorant and Unwary People, I shall take their *Secret* to Pieces, and for Method's

thod's Sake, begin with their *Powder*, each Ingredient whereof I shall endeavour to examine with that Candour and Uprightness, becomes an Impartial Pen. And as *COMFRY* and *Solomon's Seal*, are their two Celebrated Specificks, which form the Basis of their two *Powders*, I shall first of all take 'em to task.

Hence, I hope, not unseasonably, a very short and plain Quare offers, viz. Whether the Roots of *COMFRY*, and Solomon's Seal, were ever reckon'd Good against Ruptures, or recommended by Authors, and us'd by the Regular Sons of Art, before this New Light in Physick?

The Answer is ready, viz. That they have not only been reckon'd Good in Ruptures, but even esteem'd Specificks, not only recommended by all Authors, who ever treated the Subject, but practis'd by all Physicians, Surgeons and others, and continue in Use to this Day.

And lest any shou'd fancy, I wou'd presume to offer bare Assertions, in the Room of Real Proofs, let these few following, out of the many Authorities I cou'd here adduce, suffice.

## C H A P. I.

## Of COMFRY.

**C**OMFRY, by the Greeks was call'd *αγχεύτης*,  
*Sympytum*, a *συγκόνιαν*, *Conglutinare*, or as  
*Matthiolus* has it, a *Glutinandi facultate sic dic-*  
*tum*, so call'd from its Agglutinating Quality.

— *Theophrastus*, *Dioscorides*, *Galen*, and all  
 Botanick Writers since their Days, rank'd it a-  
 mongst the Glutinating and Vulnerary Plants;  
 so its Name bears.

By the *Latins* it was call'd *Sympytum*, or  
*Consolida major*, — By the *Italians*, *Consolida*  
*Maggiore*, — By the *Spaniards*, *Suelda ma-*  
*jore*, — By the *Germans*, *Ballwurs*, *Basswurtz*,  
*Großwalwurtz*, *Schwartwurtz*, — By the *Dutch*,  
*Waelwortle* and *Baelwortle*, — By the *French*,  
*Confire*, *grande Consoude* & *Oreile d' asne*, —  
 By the *English*, *COMFRY* the Greater.

*Dioscorides Pedacius*, the Chief of all *Bo-*  
*tanick* *Writers*, tells us, in Chap. 9. That *COM-*  
*FRY* glues fresh Wounds together, and cures  
*Ruptures*. — Chap. 10. That the Juyce of its  
 Roots, or the same bruis'd and drunk, cures  
 those who spit Blood, and are *Ruptur'd*. —  
 — Chap. 14. That *COMFRY* Roots apply'd  
 to recent Wounds, join 'em together, as they  
 do Pieces of *Flesh* when boil'd with 'em, and  
 cure those who are *Ruptur'd*.

*Paulus Aegineta*, lib. 7. p. 774. says, That *COMFRY* has an Astringent Quality, whereby it cures Spitting of Blood, and *Ruptures*. — Contributors much against Spitting Blood, and a *Hernia*, or *Rupture* where the Gut falls down.

*Lucius Apuleius*, in his Book *De Virtutibus Herbarum*, tells us, That *COMFRY* Roots eat with Honey Fasting, check all Fluxes, and cure *Ruptures*.

*Oribasius*, says, That *COMFRY* contracts, is Astringent, and cures *Ruptures*; has a purging Quality.

*Aetius Amidenus*, Serm. 9. pag. 309. tells us, That *COMFRY*, which grows upon Rocks, cures *Ruptures*, as doth that of the Shops, call'd *Sympyton majus*, *Consolida major*, or *COMFRY* the Greater. See his *Tetrab. 4. Serm. 2. p. 257.* A Plaister *ad Intestina prolapsa*, made of an Ounce of the fine Powder of *COMFRY* Roots, with the Whites of six new-laid Eggs, with the Yolks well beat up, to be apply'd when the Intestine is reduc'd, and to be retain'd with a proper Bandage.

Galen mentions its Virtues that Way, in many Places, particularly in lib. 8. de Simpl. Med. and says, It has a Contracting Power, cures Spitting of Blood, and *Ruptures*.

*Pliny*, in lib. 6. cap. 7. That *COMFRY* cures *Ruptures*, taken inwardly, *Enterocelas Cohibet*, i. e. keeps the Intestine from falling down.

The Bounds I've limited, constrain me to pass over many others, as also, but barely, to mention a few of the *Arabians*; as *Avicenna*, call'd the Prince; *Averroes*, *Albatenius*, *Rhasis*, and *John Mesues*, who indeed excell'd 'em all, for he was a most Indefatigable and Diligent Inquirer into the Faculties, and Virtues of Simples. See his Book *De Consolatione Med. Simp.* Printed at *Venice apud Luc. Ant. Junt.* — 1588. where he distinctly Points out its Virtues against *Ruptures*. All these whom I have nam'd, take Notice of its Virtues that Way, as do a vast many others, whom for Brevity's Sake I must here omit.

*Gab. Fallopius*, in his Book of Simples, *Ludg. bat.* 1520, in Folio. *Guido de Cauliaco*, in his Book of Simples, *Venice* 1490, in Folio. *John de Vigo* of Simples, *Lyons* 1418, in Quarto. *Valerius Cordus*, who augmented *Dioscorides* with most Noble Notes, in his History of Plants, 1564, in Folio. *Hermolaus Barbarus*, a *Venetian*, on the Five Books of *Dioscorides*, *Cologne* by *Jo. Soter*, Folio, have all mention'd its Virtues that Way.

It was call'd by *Brunsfelsius*, *Consolida major*. See *Icon. Herb. Viv.* 1539, in Folio. By *John Agricola*, *Euricius Cordus*, and several others,

*Solidago major*, and by 'em, said to be special Good against *Ruptures*.

*Ruellius de natura Stirpium, apud Colinaeum, 1536.* pag. 775. *Vulneribus sanandis tanta est præstantia, ut Carnes cum coquantur Conglutinet, ossibus fractis medetur;* that it's an Excellent Vulnerary, joins Pieces of Flesh together, when boild with it, and cures broken Bones, &c.— *Ruptis ac Eversis, Symphyti Radices medentur;* that *COMFRY* cures *Ruptures*, where the Guts are turn'd out.— *Illitæ etiam Enteroceles cohibent,* i. e. when apply'd it retains the Gut, when replac'd from falling down.

*Hieronymus Tragus, a German, De Stirpium natura, p. 241.* tells us, That *COMFRY* Roots are of greater Use in Physick than the Leaves; Excellent in the Cure of *Ruptures*, and most convenient for Wounds, both Internal and External. — That it's a common Practice amongst Surgeons, to mix the Powder of *COMFRY* Roots with their Plasters, which they find Excellent against *Ruptures*, and broken Bones, as daily Experience testifies.

*Matthiolus*, who was by far the most Celebrated Commentator on *Dioscorides*, enlarg'd by *Caspar Bauhin*, says, That *COMFRY* the Greater cures *Ruptures*, and broken Bones; *carnes enim cum Symphyto decoctæ coalescunt.*

*Sympytum*, says he, *a Glutinandi facultate dictum, unde & Consolida duum generum.* *Dioscorides Sympytum petraum & alterum, Cons. mag.*

*mag. C. B. Symph. Alt. Lacuna. Cordus in  
Dioscorid. in Hist. Casp. Tabernamont.*

*Fernelius*, pag. 165. of his Works Printed at *Hanover*, tells us, That *COMFRY* Roots bruis'd and drunk cure Spitting of Blood, green Wounds, and *Ruptures*; & *minutim concisas Carnes cogunt si una coquantur.*

*Bauhinus*, in his Universal History of Plants, in three Volumes *Ebroduni*, in Folio, in Vol. 3. p. 593. look for *Symphytum majus*, and there you'll have a full, and most distinct Account of the Virtues of *COMFRY*, especially for Curing *Ruptures*.

*Spigelius*, in his Works Printed at *Padua*, 1608. As also *Jo. Geo. Seckenius*, at *Francfort*, 1608, both mention its Virtues against *Ruptures*.

*Dodoneus*, in his Book of Plants, at *Antwerp*, *Ibid.* tells us, That *COMFRY* Roots bruis'd and drunk, cure both Internal and External Wounds, Spitting of Blood, and *Ruptures*.

*Gerrard*, pag. 660, says, That the Roots of *COMFRY* stamp'd, and the Juyce drunk with Wine, help those who spit Blood, and heal all Wounds and Burstings, that is, *Ruptures*.

*Parkinson*, in his Theatre of Plants, *Lond.* 1640, pag. 523, *Symphytum majus vulgare*; common great *COMFRY*, full of a Glutinous or

Clammy Juyce, cures fresh Wounds, by glewing their Lips together, and is special Good for *Ruptures*, and broken Bones.

*Le Febure*, Chap. 9. Sect. 1. says, That *COMFRY* cures all *Ruptures*, provided the Part affected be held up with a good Bandage, and every third Day, a *Cataplasm* of the same Root be apply'd with *Croc. martis astringens*, and dulcified Earth of Vitriol: See his Extract, or as he calls it, Blood of *COMFRY*, Dose half a Dram to one Dram, washing it down with Vulnerary Potions, Red Wine, &c. It's to be us'd a Philosophical Month, that is, Forty Days.

*Hollerius*, a Celebrated Parisian Physician, highly commends the Juyce, or Powder of *COMFRY* Roots, *Solomon's Seal*, &c. in *Ruptures*.

*Bayrus*, in his Chap. of *Ruptures*, says, That *COMFRY*, and *Solomon's Seal*, in Powder, with Red Wine, cure *Ruptures*. — *Isaac* says the very same.

*Etmuller*, pag. 101, says, The Roots of the Greater *COMFRY*, are to be gathered in the Month of *March*, and *April*, and even at Full Moon, then they are best. It's a Celebrated Vulnerary, both inwardly taken, and outwardly apply'd. — It may be given in *Powder Extract*, or by Way of Electuary, but not altogether so conveniently in a Decoction.

The Learn'd Geiger, in his *Kelegraphia*, or Treatise on *Ruptures*, at Munich, 1631, tells us, That amongst the Simples, said to be Specificks in *Ruptures*, *Symphytum majus*, or *Consolida major*, which we call *COMFRY* the Greater, *Polygonatum*, call'd *Sigillum Sanctæ Mariæ*, and we *Solomon's Seal*, &c. were Esteem'd by the Ancients Good against *Ruptures*, all artfully dry'd, and given in Powder to Children, in their Victuals, Milk, &c. that they wonderfully Cur'd *Ruptures*, as did all the *Flix's*, especially the *Osmond Royal perfoliata*, &c.

*COMFRY*, says Sir John Floyer, in his *Pharmacobazaros*, is Clammy, mealy, and mucilaginous, by which it's good in sharp Rheums, Ulcers of the Lungs, and Kidneys, and in Bloody Fluxes. It's an Excellent Vulnerary, and most used in *Ruptures*. — The Roots of *COMFRY*, *Solomon's Seal*, &c. as also all such as by their Mucilages, which are very Clammy, glewing fresh Wounds together, are the only proper Conglutinatives. — *Solomon's Seal* call'd *Polygonatum vulgare*, is (says he) Mucilaginous, its Roots and Leaves are a little biting or pungent without Astringency. It's used boil'd in Wine, or in Powder for *Ruptures*. — I did not observe the Bitterishness nor Astringency (as Galen did) which join'd to a Mucilage, and Acrimony, will certainly render it Purgative.

Parkinson, pag. 700, says, The Roots of *Solomon's Seal*, help to knit and join broken Bones,

and the most assured Refuge, or Help for *Ruptures* and *Burstings*.

*Michael Joannes Paschalius*, in his *Meth. Cur. lib. 1. cap. 60. de Hernia, Mibi Crede, Inquit, quod si Juvenis 30 Resupinus dies quiescat, & de die drachinam Un. Pulv. Consolidae maj. cum Jure pedum Arietis, vel vino astringente, mane Accipiat, Recens Curabitur Hernia.*

Believe me, says he, if a Boy lie on his Back quietly thirty Days, and take one Dram of the Powder of *COMFRY Roots*, in Broth, or Astringent Red Wine, every Morning, during that Time, any Recent *Rupture* will be Cur'd.

*Christopher Roesler*, an Eminent Physician prescrib'd to his own Son, who had a compleat *Rupture*, this Powder, which Cur'd him, the Gut being first put up. Take thorough-Wax, and Saracen's Consound, of each two Ounces and half; Mouse-ear, *COMFRY Roots* of each half an Ounce, Sugar Penid five Drams, mix and make a Powder to be taken every Day, one Dram in Broth, he kept much in Bed, and with a fit Plaister, and proper Truss, he was happily Cur'd.

*John Frederick Almacherus*, a famous Surgeon at Franckfort, us'd much the same with the Addition of Horse-Tail, Anise and Carraways-Seed, of each half an Ounce.

John

*John Baptista Silonius*, gave the Powder of COMFRY Roots, with a Plaister, wherein COMFRY was Chief, with Mastich. G. Elemni, Tacham. &c. applied warm, which generally succeeded.

*Bernhard Versazcha*, Physician at *Basil*, who Compendiz'd *Riverius*, &c. order'd This, Morning and Night for forty Days. Take of Tormentil, Bistort, and COMFRY Roots, of each one Ounce, Ladies-Mantle, Agrimony, of each one Handful, Red-Roses, and Pomegranates, of each two Pugils, Anniseeds, as much as is sufficient for two Pints of Wine, and one of Water, which together with a *Rupture* Plaister, generally did the Busines.

*John Uldaric Rumlerus*, an *Augustan* Physician, happily Cur'd Childrens *Ruptures* with the Powder of COMFRY Roots, and this Plaister. Take COMFRY Roots one Ounce and half, Saracens Confound, Agrimony, Cloves, Fennel Seeds, Millefoil, Plantain, of each one Handful, Frankincense, Galls, Cypress-Nuts, of each six Drams, Tormentil, Serpentaria or Snake-Root, of each an Ounce, with Turpentine Q. S. M. f. Empl.

*Hieronymus Reusner*, p. 53, Cur'd Childrens Ruptures with a Draught Morning and Night, wherein besides Mouse-ear, Fluellin, Ladies-Mantle, Avens, &c. COMFRY was Chief Ingredient — pag. 97, Obs. 182, he tells us of a Monk, who was Ruptur'd on both Sides by

by a Fall, and happily Cur'd by the long Use  
of a Syrup made of Vulnerary Plants, where-  
of COMFRY was Chief.

In the *Rosa Anglicana*, we have the follow-  
ing Decoction for Ruptures, or rather Syrup.  
Take Plantain, Roses, black and white Jacea,  
**COMFRY**, Avens, Valerian, Horse-Tail, Ver-  
vain, of each one Handful, Liverwort two  
Handfuls, Cinnamon, Nutmegs, white and red  
Coral, of each half an Ounce, Sugar six Pounds,  
or what suffices. — There's also a Liniment  
wherein **COMFRY** is Chief.

Dr. Fuller, in his *Pharmacopæia Extemp.* has  
this following Powder for Ruptures, Take  
Roots of *Solomon's Seal*, **COMFRY** the Gre-  
ater, Anniseeds, of each one Dram, mix and  
make a Powder Dose, to a Child fifteen Grains  
twice a Day. To Adults two Scruples. It ex-  
pels Wind, easing Pain, and consolidating the  
Parts, washing it down with four Ounces, of  
an Astringent Decoction, whereof **COMFRY**  
is the Chief Ingredient. See Decoct. Stiptic.

Daniel Ludovicus, in his *Pharmacopæia mo-  
derno saeculo applicata*, has,

### *This POWDER for Ruptures.*

Take **COMFRY** Roots in fine Powder one  
Dram and a half, Rupture-wort one Dram,  
thorow Wax half a Dram, Sugar-Candy one  
Ounce, mix and make a Powder to be taken  
every Morning, for a Month, in the Syrup of  
**COMFRY**.

*Boyl's POWDER for Ruptures.*

Take Roots of *Solomon's Seal*, in fine Powder one Dram, or two Scruples, in Broth or *French Red-Wine* every Morning for thirty Days.

*Purmanus*, a German Surgeon, in his *Chirurgia Curiosa*, gave Children the following

*POTION.*

Take Roots of *Solomon's Seal*, half an Ounce, Seeds of Cresses six Drams, Sanicle, Fluellin, of each half a Handful, Ashbark half an Ounce, boil in one Pound of Water, add half an Ounce of Carminative Water, Spirit of Salt half a Dram, Syrup of Oranges, as much as is sufficient, mix and make a Potion, whereof two or three Ounces may be given, for sometime Fasting.

*Blanckard*, commends a Dram of the Powder of COMFRY Roots, with the Seeds of Pérfoliata, or thorow Wax, drinking after it *French Claret*, for thirty Days.

*Mynsicht* in his *Armamentarium Chymic. sect.* 25. 35. has a Decoction for Curing Ruptures where COMFRY is Chief.

*Macassius*, in his *Promptuarium materie med.* p. 801. cap. 18. has given us a distinct Account of the Simples us'd against Ruptures, 'mongst which are the Roots of *Solomon's Seal*, COMFRY, Valerian, &c. He has also a Decoction,

coction, *Contra Herniam Intestini*, of COMFRY Roots, *Geranium*, Herb Robert, &c. call'd by *Weichard*, the Vulnerary Decoction.— He has Spirit of Nitre, and Spirit of Salt.— Balsam of sal. gem. Essence of COMFRY, Rupture-wort, thorough-Wax, for Ruptures, by *Michael* and several others, as *Solenander's* Compositions, *Grulingius's*, *Tilingius's*, &c. in all which COMFRY was still the Chief Ingredient.

*Sir Kenelm Digby's Recipes*, p. 107.

Take Roots of *Solomon's Seal*, *Hind's Tongue*, *Maiden Hair*, of each one Handful, wash 'em, pick, stamp, and boil 'em in four Pounds of white Wine, Dose four Ounces twice a Day, till the Person is Cur'd.

*Gennadius's POWDER from Quercetan by Schröder, Franc. 1648. 4to p. 427.*

Take COMFRY Roots half an Ounce, Rupture-wort one Ounce, seal'd Earth, Cinamon, Fennel Seeds, of each one Dram, Sugar of Roses, as much as you please, mix and make a Powder, to be given every Morning Fasting, not neglecting a fit Truss, using in the mean Time our Diaconotic Balsam, which mightily dries, and contracts the Relax'd Parts.

*Simon Pauli*, in his *Quadrupartitum Botanicum*, 1668, 4to, tells us, That the vulgar People use the Conserve of COMFRY Roots for their Ruptures, because of its Agglutinating and Consolidating Quality.

If these few, out of the vast Number of Authorities (all as plain as they are Uncontested) be not sufficient to prove the precise Time when the Virtues of COMFRY, and *Solomon's Seal* that Way were first found out. Let them at least serve to shew us, that these two Simples have been us'd for Ruptures by the Ancient *Greek* Physicians, and handed down to us without Interruption, by all who ever treated that Subject, and that these same are still recommended by all Authors, and in all Nations, for what some call Specificks in Ruptures.

Were the Roots of COMFRY, *Solomon's Seal*, and others call'd Specificks, with their Foton's, Cataplasms, and Plasters, &c. only to be heard of 'mongst the *Greek* and *Arabian* Writers, they might have had room to lay some Claim to the Word *Secret*; but when all that ever wrote in the *English* Tongue, and any Way handled that Subject, have plainly and distinctly pointed out to us their Virtues that Way, and all Dispensatories both at Home and Abroad, from those of the first Rank to the last, have mention'd their Virtues as Specificks in Ruptures, at least order'd 'em in Ruptur'd Cases. I think the making a *Secret* of such, can proceed from no less than Ign-----ce, supported and push'd on by Imp-----ce, the first not so despicable a Deficiency as some have fancied it, the other the greatest and readiest Accomplishment such Adepts can boast of.

Have

Have not their darling Authors, *Culpepper* and *Salmon*, &c. these noted *Quack-wrights* instructed every Gardner, old Woman, and all that cou'd but read their A B C's, that COM-FRY Roots, *Solomon's Seal*, with Rupture-wort, and many more, were good against Ruptures, which if they, or any of 'em, be so silly as not to believe, let 'em consider their Names, being so called from their Virtues that Way.

So much for their two Celebrated Specificks: I now proceed to the Purgative Ingredients in their Powder.

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## C H A P. II.

### *Of A L O E S.*

THIS is so well known to every Prentice Boy, that I should not here offer to say any Thing of it, were it not that I wou'd not let slip this Occasion, to shew a little of what the Ancients knew concerning it, and that it has been one of the most noted Purgatives in Ruptures. All the *Greeks* us'd it to their Ruptur'd Patients, see *Oribasius*, Cap. 107. p. 327. *Sumi etiam quotidie potest a Cæna Aloes, Stomacho placidissima est in Catapotiis*, which we call Pills, as two or three, *Ciceris magnitud. sumito,* or

or more, *Ut Evacuandi necessitas postulavit, &c.*  
 See what's said of *Aloes* by *Jo. Matth. Durastant.*  
*of Aloe, 1567,* in 8vo. — *Mendererus aloedarium Marocostin. Aug. Vend. ap. Christ. Mag. 1616,*  
*in 8vo.* — *Joannius de Utilitate pil. Aloet.*  
*1630, in 8vo.*

All the Kinds of *Aloes* were well known to  
 the Ancients, the best of them is the *Succotrine.*  
 — *Rufus*, who liv'd long before *Galen*, tells  
 us, That when the Stomach and Intestines  
 were loaded with viscid cold Humours, *Aloes*  
 fetch'd them safely away.

The Ancients generally us'd Aromaticks with  
*Aloes*, as Cloves, Cinnamon, &c. one Dram  
 and a half was their common Dose, sometimes  
 two Drams, *ab Aureo uno ad duos*, says *Mesues*;  
*Aureus*, was the same with the *Arabians* as our  
 Drachm.

Experience has plainly taught all who use  
*Aloes* long and much, that it opens the Hæmor-  
 hoidal Vessels, which *Fallopis* says, he had  
 seen a thousand Times, and of one Hundred  
 who had us'd *Aloes* for a long Time, Ninety  
 were troubl'd with a Fluxus Hæmorrhidarum,  
*omnisso vero Aloes Usu clauduntur venæ illæ*, lea-  
 ving off the Use of *Aloes*, these Veins shut up.  
 They sometimes dissolv'd *Aloes* in a Decoction  
 of Rheubarb, or an Infusion of Roses which  
 purg'd safely, and strengthen'd the Stomach.

They

They often purg'd their Ruptur'd Patients with the Pil. *Hieræ*, and Pil. *Aloephanginæ*, are nothing else than *Mefues's Aromatick Pills*.

Innumerable are the Compositions which have been contriv'd and us'd by the wise Ancients, and handed down to us, wherein *Aloes*, or *Aloes lota*, were the Chief and Principal Ingredients.

Was not *Aloes* the Chief in *Mefues's Stomachick Pills*. — *Rufus's Pills*. — Pil. Pestilential *Avicennæ*, &c. — *Bennet's Pills*. — *Angelick Pills* in *Bates*. — *Angelick Pills* in *Sala*. — *Grulingius's Pills*. — *Bontius's Pills* in great Esteem 'mongst the *Dutch*. — *The Frankfort Pills*. — *Anderson's*, or the *Scots Pills*. — *Maracostinus's Extract*. — The famous Essence of *Conerdingius* was little else but *Aloes*. — *Emanuel's Pills*. In short, There's hardly any purging Pill without *Aloes* in its Composition.

*Aloes* was order'd in Form of Pills (says *Walchmidt*) for its Bitterness from half to a whole Scruple.

*Paul* in his First Book, Ch. 43, gave *Aloes* after Supper, in a small Quantity, so as it did not disturb, but rather fortify'd the Stomach, and gently mov'd the *Fæces* downward.

Were we to consult the Compositions of the Ancient *Greeks*, and *Recipes* of the *Arabian Physicians*,

sicians, we shou'd find that Cinnamon, Cloves, and other Spices, were always us'd with their Purgatives, as *Galen* has well observ'd, That when strong Purgatives are given, it's fit such Aromaticks, or warm Spices be mix'd with them, for strong Physick always relaxeth the Stomach and Guts, *Vide Gal.* 3. *Simpl. Med. fac. c. 14.* and these are what Sir *John Floyer* means by sweet Aromaticks, the Effects of which on the Body (says he) are to warm the Stomach, discuss and expel Wind, they strenthen the Fibres of the Stomach, Membranes, and nervous Parts, and by their Volatile Particles become Cordials : These are accounted Carminatives, because they rarefie the flatuous Exhalations from the Chyle, in the *Prima Via*, and so discuss them.

When the Ancients gave their *Catapotia*, which we call Pills, or any other dry Physick, after the Example of their Great Master *Hippocrates*, they gave Apozems, medicated Wines, and other Liquids, by Help whereof the dry Physick might be the more readily dissolv'd, and so, sooner convey'd to the Intestines, and this in general was call'd *Apozema* by the Greeks.

— *Hippocrates* sometimes us'd Apozems of the Nature of the Purgative ; but when his Patients were delicate, he gave them after it, *Cremor hordei*, *Jus pulli*, Chicken Broth, and the like.

*Rufus* orders strong Purgatives to be mix'd with weak, as Scammony with Lenitive Elecuary, or Marmalade, adding with *Hippocrates*,

crates, an Aromatick, and with *Mesues*, a little Zinger, *Ut augeatur facultas medicamenti.* — And we find a little strong Cinamon Water, *Aq. mirabilis*, and the like, prudently order'd by Physicians of the best Practice, in common purging Potions.

*Fallopious* tells us, That the wise Ancients generally prepar'd their Patients Bodies, before they gave strong Purgatives, as *Hippocrates*. Sect. 2. Aph. 9. *Corpora dum Quispiam purgare voluerit opportet fluida facere*, he who will purge Bodies, must first make 'em permeable, and this is most effectually done by a moist, liquid, and mollifying Diet.

*Galen* that faithful Interpreter of *Hippocrates*, upon that Aphorism, tells us by Preparation, &c. what he means. If the Humours be gross they are to be attenuated and cut. — If viscid to be deterg'd. — If putrid to be concocted, else the Evacuation wou'd not succeed, but prove violent. — The Preparation then consists in Opening, that is, removing such Humours as may stuff and obstruct the Glands, and small Mouths of their Vessels, which is often done, by detergent and attenuating Things, as Whey with a little Manna, and Syrup of Pale-Roses, &c. which open by Cleansing the Mouths of the Vessels, and so these Passages, through which their Purges were to be carried, being open, the Body was said to be prepar'd. See *Galen*, Lib. 2. Aph. Com. 9. *Ætius tr. 1. Serm. 3. Cap. 23.* and *Antylus* says, When you

wou'd

wou'd purge, you must pre-attenuate the Humours, &c.

*Pravus Chymus ad exitum si compellatur vicio per digestionem non emendato, aut difficulter, evacuari posse, aut membra Chymus non digestus transbit offendere.* Vide Arnold. de Villa Nova Doct. 4. c. 13. Aph. 3.

Sometimes they prepar'd their Patients by oily Clysters, and others of such Ingredients as were able to cut and attenuate viscid, tough Pituit, &c. by the Help of which Clysters, the *Viscera* and *Præcordia* before compress'd, were reliev'd, and thus their Bodies were said to be prepar'd for their intended Physick.

It sometimes falls out, that in certain Constitutions, if Clysters be not premis'd, dry Physick as Pills, Extracts, Powders, &c. do only raise Cholicks, Gripes, &c. and often excite vomiting instead of purging; and if the Dose be strong, it rather vomits than purges. I have often seen *Pil. ex duobus*, when in a large Dose, as two Scruples, vomit instead of purging, and grip'd those who took 'em prodigiously, when a gentle Dose of Liquid Physick, such as a Solution of Manna in Whey, an Infusion of Senna, with Syrup of Pale-Roses, or any other Liquid Physick, wou'd have purg'd 'em copiously. — And this, I think, is agreeable to the Experience of those, who have been most diligent in their Observations, upon Experiments on the different Effects of Purgatives. —

*Daniel Ludovicus*, in his *Pharmacopeia moderna*

*fæculo applicata*, tells us, That *Solida tardius operantur*, because the Action of Purgatives chiefly depends upon its acrid, mucilaginous Salt or Rosin ; and it's pretty plain, that a proportionable Dose of Diagred in the *Cornachini* Powder, when infus'd over Night in a Cup of cold Water, will operate much brisker than the same Quantity of Diagred, when given dry, *viz.* in Powder, Pills, or Extract, which before they operate, must be resolv'd into their mucilaginous Mass ; and this is the more Apparent, that those who have taken Powders, Pills, or Extracts, don't generally purge well, till after repeated Draughts of warm Broths, or other warm Liquids, by which they are resolv'd.

But such Things being plain to all who have been acquainted with Practice, I shall insist no further, nor had I dwelt so long upon the Subject of Purgatives here, had I not believ'd these few Cautions relating to their Use, might afford some useful Hints to young Practitioners.

## C H A P. III.

*Of J A L A P.*

THIS is so commonly and universally known, that to insist on it here, any further than barely to mention its being brought to us in dry'd Pieces from *New-Spain*, wou'd be taking up the Room, other Things more immediately concern'd in my main Subject may justly claim ; the freshest and most ponderous, whose Rosin shines when broken, is best. Its Powder, especially when new-done, is certainly the readiest, as well as the best Purge (due Regard being had to its Dose) that our Shops afford. It has for that very Reason, obtain'd mightily 'mongst the Country People, through almost all *Europe* for Ages past, who without any further Charges or Ceremony, than washing it down with a Cup of warm Ale, or Wine, are provided with a good Purge in several Cases.—Nature, says *Boldne*, seems to have furnish'd it with the best Corrector in its Production, whence it is that the Simple Powder of the Root is the best Way of taking it.

*Rofineius*, and most other Authors, order it fresh, just as it is put in Powder ; for when its Powder, as well as that of *Ipecacuan*, and other Vegetables is long kept, it loses much of

its Efficacy. The same *Rolfine.* tells us, That it shou'd be sweetn'd with Sugar, with a few Guts of any Aromatick Oil, or with the Essence of Citrons, but, says he, if you are to mix it in Form of a *Bolus*, it's best done with Syrup of Citrons, Nutmegs, or Cinamon, q. s.

Purging Powders (says *Etmuller*) are not unproperly mix'd with a few Guts of Oil of Anise, Nutmegs, Mace, &c. because they are grateful to the Stomach, and because they are Carminative, E. G.

### A Purging Powder.

Take *Jalap* in fine Powder one Scruple, *Crem-tartar* half a Scruple, mix and make a Powder, to which add Oil of Anise, Guts two, in a little Sugar, here, says he, *Jalap* is the Basis. The delicate add Oil of Cinamon dropt in Sugar. He has a Powder call'd his Catholick Powder, see pag. 299.

Take Rheubarb, Aloes Succotrin, Jalap, Scammony, of each five Grains, Tartar Vitriolat six Grains, Powder of Cinamon three Grains, mix and make a Powder to be taken Fasting.

### *The Digestive Powder of the Ancients.*

Take Coriander prepar'd half an Ounce, Anise, and Fennel-Seeds of each one Dram, Nutmegs, Gallangal one Dram, Cinamon one Scruple, Sugar the Weight of the Whole, mix and

and make a Powder, Dose half a Dram to one Dram.

So much for their Specificks with Purgatives; what's added by Way of Disguise, as Cocheneal in the Children's Powder, is not to be regarded; but as for the Sugar, and Chemical Oil, the one to gratify the Tast, the other to correct Wind, they are both proper; but then there's nothing more common in all our Dispensatories; all our Authors, and all our Practitioners use these and the like, and the Quantity is generally left to the Discretion of the Giver, who is suppos'd to consider Circumstances, as Age, Constitution, &c. and not give Purgatives, as I have often seen 'em do at random, as much as wou'd lie upon a Shilling, out of a Tin-Box, the same Dose to a Child of two, three, or four, as to a Person of twenty, thirty, or Forty. But regular Physicians knowing the Inconveniencies that attend such injudicious Administrations, are, and always will be more cautious, as *Welschius* on *Walæus, Meth. Med. Quam vel Cerdonibus concedant. Qui nec ipsi uno Callopodio omnia metuntur*, than to act as such Coblers do, who measure all Mens Feet by one Last.

These who magnified this Secret Method, shew'd not much more Judgment in this Matter, than they did Reading, when they objected, That though *Comfry*, and *Solomon's Seal*, were known Specificks in *Ruptures*, yet they never were given with Purgatives before: Phy-

sicians in all Ages having absolutely discharg'd purging in *Ruptures*.

Had this been the Case, and had they, or any else ventured to do any Thing, wou'd have contributed to an easier Way of Reducing, than what had been in Use before 'em, they had merited the Thanks of the Publick, and might have been indulg'd in the Word Secret, I for my Part shou'd have join'd to praise 'em. But if it be found that Physicians, Surgeons and other Practitioners, in all Ages and Nations, as well as all Authors, both Ancient and Modern, have order'd and us'd purging in *Ruptures*, along with *Comfry*, and *Solomon's Seal*, &c. then I hope it will be allow'd me, That this is neither their Invention, nor is their Method a Secret.

To give full Satisfaction on this Head, I shall look back on the earlier Ages of Antiquity, to show how far this Method of Purging in *Ruptures* has been a Mystery to 'em, by which Inquiry, we shall probably be led into what they did, what they knew, and what they have said concerning Purging in *Ruptures*.

But before I proceed, I beg leave to point out the Methods of Cure prescribed by a few Authors of a later Date, who have accurately and regularly handled this Subject, which if the Judicious Reader please to collate with theirs, he'll soon see from whence the mighty Secret has been pirated.

I shall

I shall begin with *Peter Forestus*, a very Learn'd and Eminent Practical Physician, born of a Noble and Ancient Family at *Alcmaer* in *Friesland* 1522, practis'd forty Years at *Delph*, and was afterwards first Physician at *Leyden*, in his Book *Deramicum diversis speciebus*, *Lugd. Bat.* 1591.

Pag. 195 *Galen*, says he, in *Aph. 3. Com. ib.* wisely taught that general Rules by a natural Order, ought to precede Particulars. — That if the Gut or Caul, or both be fallen out, they are to be gently replac'd, and when so, they are to be retain'd with a proper Truss, and the Part consolidated, so as they may not fall down again, — That in order to facilitate the Reduction, the Intestines ought to be emptied, either by Purgations or Clysters. — That whether it be done with Aloes, Jalap, Scammony, Rheubarb, Senna, or other Purgative is all the same, seeing the End of Emptying is answer'd; for untill the Intestines be thoroughly emptied, and freed of the Fæces and Flatus which hinder'd and obstructed the Reduction of the Parts prolaps'd, in some Cases its not safe to attempt reponing.

Sometimes he purg'd with one Ounce of new pulp'd Cassia, and a Scruple of Aniseeds, in fine Powder, as in *Obs. 20th de Enterocèle, Curata. pag. 205.* and gave four Ounces of a consolidating Draught, of which *Comfrey* and *Solomon's Seal* are the chief Ingredients with Aniseeds, &c. boil'd in equal Parts of French Claret

Claret and Water, twice or thrice every Day.

At other times he purg'd with Aloetick Pills, whereof he gave one Scruple every Morning fasting, three or four Hours before Dinner, as in *Obs. 21.* or a Dram of Pills of Hiera, one Hour before Supper, as in the same *Obs.* using in the mean time a Decoction of consolidating and vulnerary Plants in French Wine and Water, sweeten'd with Sugar, and drank twice a Day for a Month, or Forty Days.

### *Pills of Hiera.*

Take Cinnamon, Saffron, Cubebs, Mastick, Asarum, Spikenard of each two Scruples, of the best Aloes an Ounce and half put 'em in fine Powder, and with Elixir Proprietatis make a Mass for Pills.

Sometimes he added to the Pills of Hiera some choice Rheubarb — at other times he gave the *Pil. Aggregativ.* of *Mesues*, as in pag. 239, which are made up of Rheubarb, Scammony prepar'd, Colocynth, Aloes, Aniseeds and Zinger, &c. — Some he purg'd with the common Decoction of Senna six Drams, Aniseeds, Fennel, Caraways, of each one Dram and half, with Syrup of Roses solut. — And others he purg'd with Lenitive Electuary, a Præscript of his own. see pag. 218. which he always us'd to such whose Fæces were much indurated, or very constipated, and

and during the whole time of the Cure, which happen'd much about Forty Days, he made 'em drink Wine, generally French Claret medicated with vulnerary Plants, whereof *Comfry* and *Solomon's Seal* were chief; fasting much, a spare Diet, but above all, Rest and Silence were enjoyn'd.

*If the Fæces hindered Reduction an emollient Clyster.*

Take Mallows, marsh Mallows, Violet Leaves, Mercury, Pellitory of the Wall, Melilot and Chamomel Flowers, of each one Handful, Linseed, Anise, Fennel, Carraway Seeds, of each three Drams, Tops of Dill a Handful, boil all in a Quart of Water into a Pint, add Cassia, brown Sugar, and Lenitive Electuary, of each half an Ounce, Hieracium Picra two Drams, Oil of Dill, and Chamomel of each an Ounce, Oil of Anise one Dram. Make a Clyster.

*If Wind, this or the like Fomentation.*

Take Flowers of Chamomel, Melilot, Dill, Pellitory of the Wall, of each a Handful, Linseed, Fenugreck, of each half an Ounce, boil 'em all in a sufficient Quantity of Water. This is to be us'd hot with a Spunge, and when the Parts were replac'd he us'd this.

*Consolidating Fomentation.* p. 207.

Take of St. John's Wort, Primrose, red Roses, Myrtle Leaves, Sumach Hypocistis, Galls, Cypress Nuts and its Leaves, of each one handful and half, Comfrey greater and lesser, half a Handful, bruise 'em, and boil in Plantain Water and French Claret, of each equal Parts, with a fourth of Vinegar, to the Consumption of the half, the Part to be fomented with a Spunge dipt in it hot. If the Intestines are stufft with hardn'd Fæces, they are to be emptied by oyly and emollient Clysters. — If Wind and Gripes obstruct the Reduction of the Parts, relaxing Fomentations with Bags of Carminatives laid on hot over the whole Abdomen, will be of use. But if the neighbouring Parts to the Groin and Scrotum be affected with vehement Pain and any Inflammation, so that the Intestines don't yield to Reduction, Emollients, such as ease Pains, abate Inflammations, and discuss Wind, are proper. Fomentations, Baths, such as are made of Mallows, Marsh-mallows, Chamomel, Dill, Linseed, Fenugreek, Carawayes, Anise, Cumin, and the like are to be us'd, the Parts affected to be fomented. The Intestine being repon'd (whether forc'd out into the Groin, or down into the Scrotum) we are to endeavour to retain it with a fit Truss, having first apply'd an *ad berniam* Plaister, and even then, the Part ought to be fomented frequently, till it as it were contracts.

*The Corroborating Fomentation*, p. 197.

Take Bistort Roots, Cinquefoil, the greater Daisy, greater Celandine of each q. s. Narcissus, Rupturewort, Knot Grass, Horse-tail, of each one Handful, Cumin, Cresses torrified, of each an Ounce, Flowers of Stechado's, Rosemary of each a pugil, small Century, pug-two. Boil all in red Wine and Water, or Lexive, after this apply the Rupture Plaister. This Foment is not to be us'd till after the Parts are reduc'd. The Body, says he, being freed from its Fæces and Flatus, and well emptied by Medicines and Clysters, the Parts may be gently and safely re-plac'd, and there retain'd with proper Trusses.

In the mean time, the Patient is to keep his Bed thirty or forty Days, to abstain from all flatulent windy Food, hard Drinking, violent Exercises, as Leaping, &c. and to drink four or five Ounces every Morning fasting, of a Decoction of agglutinating Simples, as the two Sanicles, Saracens Confound, *Comfry Roots* and *Solomon's Seal*, &c. in red Wine and Water sweeten'd with Sugar, during the whole time of Cure. — The Body, as has been said, to be kept always free and open, lest the Parts prolapse again by overstraining, in ejecting when constipate.

But as these will be much better illustrated by Examples, I shall pick out a few from his Observations.

*Observa-*

*Observation 20. Of a compleat Rupture cur'd.*

His Brother *John*, ag'd Thirteen, had a Rupture, where the Gut was fallen into the Scrotum, as it was recent and taken in time, it was easily reduc'd, when on his Back, and as easily retain'd by a common *ad Herniam* Plaister, and a well-adapted Truss. He lay on his Back in Bed during the whole Time of Cure. His Body was kept open with *Pulpt Cassia*, and Aniseeds in Powder, and twice or thrice every Day, he took four Ounces of a *Consolidating Decoction*, of which *Comfry* and *Solomon's Seal* were the chief Ingredients, boil'd in *Frensh Claret* and Water, of each equal Parts, by which, and a good Diet, and the like, he says, he cur'd many.

In his *Scholia* on this Observation, he honestly and candidly tells us, he took his Intentions of Cure from *Leonellus Faventinus*, a famous Practical Physician, who Flourish'd about the Year 1520, who following the Methods of the Ancients, propos'd curing *Ruptures* by *Emptying*, in order to reduce the Parts prolaps'd, whether Gut, or Caul, or both, and then by Consolidating the Parts through which they prolaps'd, he propos'd a Cure.

There you have Variety of Clysters, Lenient and evacuating, Fomentations, Emollient, &c. and then Consolidating, in order to strengthen and confirm the Parts over the Breach, Inunctions, Cerats, and proper Plaisters, and in the Conclusion,

Conclusion, he tells us, that *John Arculanus* upon *Rhasis*, had recorded almost all the same, as had *Valescus* and *Montagnana* in their Consultations, so that he who had seen any one of them, had seen all; and says he, if these won't do, we must have recourse to *Surgery*.

*In his Obs. 21. of an Enterocèle, or a Complete Rupture by Way of Consultation.*

He advis'd his Friend *Theodore Teylingius*, aged about Fifty, to try a Palliative Cure, not daring to hazard the Operation, which, says he, if it don't entirely remove the Disease, being an Inveterate *Rupture*, it will at least prevent its growing worse, and so enable him to go about his ordinary Affairs; and first, he advises him to beware of Cold, and take great Care he don't expose himself to Rainy Tempestuous Weather; to beware of all violent Exercises, not to ride a hard trotting Horse, with a full Belly, absolutely discharg'd Riding, but upon extreme Necessity, and even then, not unless the Horse went easy, and to ride softly, and not immediately after Meals, and rather travel by Water than on Horsback.—*Abstinebis a Coitu vehementiore, aut Intenso*, especially after full Meals.—For Sobriety here profits much.—Take Care of all violent Motions, in mounting or dismounting a Horse, in walking to forcibly up any steep, hilly Place. Write rather sitting than standing, and by all Means embrace Rest and Quiet.

Keep the Body always soluble with Prunes or otherways. Shun hard Drinking, and *W.* *W.* as you wou'd the Plague, for such (as all Authors have told us) ought to live sparingly. Eat only twice a Day, an easy Dinner, and light Supper, and drink only a little, and at Meals. Let your Food be simple of one Kind, no Way flatulent, but of good Nourishment, and of easy Digestion. Milks, Salt, Fishes, Garden-Stuff, Onions, Parsnips, and all Things fry'd, gross new sweet Wine, as *Must*, are all bad. Apples, and all other raw Garden Horary Fruits, are to be shun'd. Take Care to keep an open Belly twice, or a least once a Day, for which End, Pills of Aloes, &c. may be us'd.

### *Fomentations of Astringent Plants.*

As *Comfry*, *Solomon's Seal*, *Tormentil*, *Bistort*, *Horse-Tail*, *Mouse-ear*, small *Centaury*, of each a Handful, *Rosemary-Flowers*, *Stæhcæs*, *Cumin*, &c. boil'd in *French Wine* and Water, the Part over the Breach to be fomented very warm, then to be anointed with *Oil of Eggs*, &c. A Plaister, &c. with a well-adapted Trufis, not to be chang'd or renew'd but in nine Days.

These are what I thought might prove Effe-  
ctual to prevent, and perhaps contribute to the  
Cure, to which might be added Consolidating  
Potions, &c. which are by far fitter for young  
People and Children, than those advanc'd in  
Years; but if you incline, they are made up  
of *Comfry Roots*, *Solomon's Seal*, *Tormentil*,  
*Shepherd's-*

Shepherd's-Purse, Sanicle, thorough-Wax, Sarcens-Confound, boil'd in French Claret and Water, and sweetn'd with Sugar to the Taste. Farewel Dear Brother, *Delph* the 5th of December 1565.

In Obs. 11. he tells us, how he cur'd the Governor of *Wassenaer's* Daughter, of twelve Years old, by a proper Diet, keeping her Body open with Bolus's of *Cassia*, &c. and a Fomentation of *Althaea*-Roots two Ounces, Mallows, Chamomel-Flowers, Melilot, Tops of Dill, of each a Handful, Linseed half an Ounce, boil'd in a Quart of Water, with which the Part was fomented, and the Gut was reduc'd; so that with a *Rupture* Plaister, and Truss well fitted, and drinking a Decoction of *Comfrey* Roots, sweetn'd with a little Sugar, she perfectly recovered.

Obs. 12. is of a certain Person who had an Inquinal *Rupture*, this he got by lifting up too great a Weight; with Fomentations apply'd long and warm, with Emollients, Evacuating Clysters, the prolaps'd Intestine was reduc'd to its proper Place, and the Part being anointed with a Mixture of Oil of St. John's-Wort, Myrtles, Mastic, &c. a Plaister *de pelle Arcetina*, and a well-adapted Truss, he was perfectly restored.

Obs. 13. is of a young Man who had got a Groin-*Rupture* by Jumping, whom he cur'd with great Ease by keeping him quiet in Bed for a little Time, prescribing him a proper Diet, with Agglutinatives; as it was easily repon'd,

pon'd, so with a common *ad Herniam* Plaister, and a well fitted Truf's, it was as easily retain'd, and he was in a short Time well.

In Obs. 14. he says, Children are very often troubl'd with Groin and Cod-Ruptures, from their frequent Crying and Straining in Ejecting, especially if too much cramm'd. But they are easily cur'd without the Physician's Help, or Application of Medicines, by a well fitted Truf's, or Bandage; yet he advised a Nurse, who brought a Child to him, with an Inquinal Rupture, to use a Medicine recommended by Galen and Avicenna, mention'd by Sebastian Austrius, in his Book of Childrens Diseases, The Seeds of Ameos, or Bishop's-Weed, in fine Powder, beat up with the White of an Egg, spread on a Cloth, and applied to the Rupture, or Lupines fry'd with a little Myrrh, boil'd in Red-Wine, and laid upon the Part by Way of Plaister, and if these did not, he advis'd her to use Avicenna's own Plaister.

Take Pomegranate-Peels, Drams ten, unripe Galls five Drams, boil 'em most exactly in a stringent rough Wine; this is to be apply'd (the Gut being put up) and not to be renew'd but once a Week, or ten Days.— See more in the same Sebastian, which he has collected from Avicen, Galen, and Rhafis.

Obs. 15. is of one Snell Nicholaus, the Governor of Newburg's Son, aged Thirty Four, who had got a Groin-Rupture by riding a hard trotting Horse, whom he cur'd in a very little Time, having

having first replac'd the Intestine, he apply'd a common *ad Herniam* Plaister, fitted a Truss to the Part, and detaining him on his Back in Bed, drinking all that Time twice a Day a Decoction, whereof *Comfry Roots*, *Solomon's Seal*, were Chief; he us'd a little *French Claret* at his Meals, kept mighty Quiet and Silent, and was so thoroughly cur'd, that the Intestine never fell out afterwards.

Obs. 17. of a very dangerous Enterocèle or complete *Rupture* at length cur'd. *Christian John Bieslingius*, a famous Painter A. D. 1590, labour'd under a desperate *Rupture*, his *Scrotum* was bigger than a Man's Head, the Fomentations, Clysters, &c. already nam'd, were us'd, yet cou'd not the Parts be repon'd, vomiting as in an Iliac Passion, cold Sweats as if Death had approach'd; at length upon repeating the Emolient, evacuating Clysters, applying this softning Cataplasm, or

### POULTICE.

Take *Althaea* Roots, white Lilly-Roots, of each three Ounces, Mallows, Violets, Pellitory of the Wall, of each four Handfuls, Melilot-Flowers, Pug. 1. boil all in Water to a Softness, then beat 'em in a marble Mortar, add Bean-Meal, Linseed, in fine Powder, Barley-Meal, of each half an Ounce, Oil of Sweet-Almonds, and fresh Butter, of each Q. S. make a soft *Cataplasm*. These Things did so well succeed, that the Parts were return'd to their proper Places, but the Iliac Passion remain'd,

until his Belly was mov'd with some Syrup of Pale-Roses, &c. by these Remedies, *fuit ab orco quasi in Lucem revocatus*, he was brought as it were from Darkness to Light.

If by these, and such like Ways, Ruptures can't be cur'd, we must have recourse to Surgery. —— And though all the Ancients endeavour'd to cure compleat Ruptures by Incision, as the Learn'd *Ronsæus* upon *Celsus* observ'd, yet *Paul* rather approves of curing by Ustion, as may be seen in *Lib. 14. Cap. 23.* *Etius nam tutissima, inquit, curatio Herniarum Chirurgia & Ustione perficitur si peritus Artifex contingat, tutior tamen ipsa Chirurgia est Ustio.* Pag. 221. Causticks may also be apply'd, and when the Eschar falls off, may be repeated, and the Part afterwards heal'd up with Unq. Apest. &c.

As to *Sarcoceles*, I have no Inclinations to meddle with 'em, says he, according to *Montagnana's Advice 227. De Hernia Carnosa Laborum fugiens, & premii parvitatem.*

*Daniel Sennertus*, that Eminent and Experienc'd Physician, born at *Breslaw* A. D. 1572, in *Tom. 2.* printed at *Lyons* 1650, in Folio, pag. 864. *Cap. De Hernia.*

### Indications and Cure.

The first Care ought to be to re-place the Intestines, which is done without Difficulty, if the Intestines are flaccid and empty. Then the Sick being on his Back, his Thighs elevated,

the

the Parts are to be gently put up ; but if they are turgid, so as they can't be repon'd, you are to know whether the Intestines are stuff'd with Wind, or Fæces.

If the Sick perceive his Abdomen distended, breaks Wind, or Belches much, with Gripes, it's from Wind. — If the Body be constipated for some Days, the Tension, Weight, and Hardness increases, it's from Fæces. — If Wind, Carminatives, and such as expel Wind, as Fennel-Seeds, Anise, Cumin, Gallangal, and the like, taken inwardly, or us'd in Clysters, as also Fænugreek, Laurel, Penny-Royal, and the like, in Fomentations. — If the Pain be vehement, such as ease Pain, as Oil of Roses, Chamomel, &c. but if these Flatuosities proceed from CruditieS, and Pituitous Matter, the Cure is the more difficult.

If the Fæces be hardn'd, its most dangerous, wherefore Emollients are maturely to be administer'd, as *Althæa Roots*, white Lilies, Mallow-Leaves, Pellitory of the Wall, Linseed, Fænugreek, or Linseed, and Fænugreek-Meal, with fresh Butter, Hens Grease, Oil of Lillies, common Oil, and the like, to be apply'd by Way of Cataplasm or Poultice. — If Poultices be not sufficient, or seem not to be so, a Bath wherein the said Emollients are boil'd, may be us'd. — Some have us'd a Bath of common Olive Oil for three Hours. — In a *Hernia omenti*, where the Caul is prolaps'd, it's but seldom there's Occasion for these Medicines. — When it falls out no further than the

Groin, the Sick on his Back, it either voluntarily returns, or may be repon'd by the Hand.

But when all these profit not, and the Sick in Hazard, the extreme Remedies are to be essay'd, &c.

When the Intestines are repon'd, the next Thing is to take Care they don't fall out again, for which End Trusses, especially in young People, in recent *Ruptures*, are of so great Use, that the whole Hopes of Cure are plac'd in 'em; for Nature, when assisted with a little Art, often cures Diseases, which were esteem'd incurable; and Experience tells us, that *Ruptures* have been cur'd in People advanc'd in Years, when the Intestine was repon'd and retain'd.

A well-fitted Truss being apply'd over an *ad Herniam* Plaister, care is to be taken that the Body be kept soft, never constipated.—To lay the Hand on the Part in Ejecting.—To beware of flatulent Food, and whatsoever may generate Wind.—All violent Exercises, &c. to be avoided; the same Cautions are to be us'd in Coughing, Sneezing, as above, in going to stool.

The Intestines being repon'd, in such as are advanc'd in Years, that the Cure may the sooner, and the more happily succeed, the Patient ought to keep his Bed, and lie much on his Back. The Medicines are twofold, Topical, and such as are taken inwardly. The Topical

pical are Agglutinative and Astringent, though all Astringents are not equally useful, but some are particularly so, as *Comfrey Roots*, *Solomon's Seal*, &c.

Although a Rent *Peritoneum* can scarcely be consolidated, yet by the Use of these Medicines, especially in recent *Ruptures*, the Part grows straiter; so that during the whole Time of Cure, the Patient ought to wear a-well-fitted Truss, and keep much in Bed.

As to Medicines to be taken inwardly, tho' all Vulnerary Simples may without Inconveniency be us'd, yet some are observ'd to be more Effectual than others in this Ail, as the Powder of *Comfrey Roots*, given in a Decoction of the same, is said to do Wonders, or,

### This *P O W D E R*.

Take *Comfrey Roots* in fine *Powder*, *Rupture-wort*, thorough-Wax, of each two Drams, for the Taste and Stomach's Sake Sugar, or Sugar of Roses may be added, or what else is judg'd grateful to the Stomach, of these, and the like various Forms of inward Medicines, may be made up, as *Powders*, *Pills*, *Syrups*, *Electuaries*, &c.

### *P I L L S.*

Take of the fine *Powder* of *Comfrey Roots*, *Rupture-wort*, thorough-Wax, of each what you please, with the Juyce of *Rupture-wort*,

and the Syrup of dry'd Roses, make *Pills*; these in *Powder* may be given in *Cheese-Cakes*, or in their Food, Broth, or mix'd any other Way and taken.

Or a Draught like this,

Take *Comfry Roots*, *Plantain*, *thorough-Wax*, *Rupture-wort*, *Yarrow*, *Valerian-Roots*, of each one Ounce, *Rheubarb* two Drams, boil all in good Wine. — Dose three Ounces.

Or THIS,

Take *Comfry Roots* six Drams, *Solomon's Seal* three Drams, *Sanicle*, *Rupture-wort*, of each one Handful, *Aniseeds*, *Fennel*, of each one Dram and half, boil in a sufficient Quantity of Water for one Pound, the strain'd Liquor is to be sweeten'd with Sugar-Candy.

Or THIS,

Take *Comfry Roots*, *Pimpernell*, of each one Ounce, *Tormentil* half an Ounce, *Rupture-wort* of each five Drams, *Fennel-Seeds*, *Anise*, *Cinnamon*, of each one Dram, *Myrrh* half a Dram, with the Syrup of dry'd Roses, make an Ele-ctuary, of which take a Dose every Morning, washing it down with a Draught of *Malmsey Wine*, or any other convenient Liquor.

Or

Or THIS,

Take Conserve of Red-Roses two Ounces, Cons. of *Comfry* Pow. of *Rupture-wort*, *Tormentil*, of each one Ounce, *Cinamon* two Drams, with the Syrup of *Myrtles*, or *Coral*, make an Electuary.

If they can't take 'em in Powder, or Decoction, the Plants 'emselves may be infus'd in Wine.

Great Care is to be had, that by the continued Use of these Things, the Stomach be not hurt, or offended, and therefore such Things as are grateful to the Stomach, are always to be added, and to be constantly us'd till the Patient is intirely restor'd.

He has other Fomentations, Liniments, and Plasters, but that *de pelle arietina*, he commends most; these, and many others, says he, are to be met with in Authors, but if they don't do, recourse must be had to *Surgery*.

And concludes this Chapter with a safe and convenient Way of Curing *Ruptures*, by Causticks, from *Platerus*.

The Potential Cautery, or Caustick, says he, was apply'd on the broken Side, where the Bag falls into the Process of the *Peritonæum*, in such a Quantity, as by mortifying the Skin about half an Inch in Length, an Eschar was made,

made, which being remov'd, i. e. cut off, another *Cauſtick* was apply'd, till the Skin being quite taken away, the Fat appear'd, which was cut off with a Pair of Scissars, till the Proceſſ shew'd it ſelf. After two Days, the Seminary Veffels were artfully separated with the Fingers, and then with a Crooked Needle he drew a Thread underneath, and tied the Proceſſ gently, putting him to no Pain. The Thread afterwards in Time falling of, Sarco-tick Ointments being apply'd, Flesh was produc'd there by Degrees, like a Callus, which grows the more easily to this Proceſſ, because the Red Coat call'd *Elythrois* is fleshy and muſculous, and ſo by compressing and filling up the Place of the lost Substance, the falling down of the Gut was prevented, and ſo the Cure was perfectly and happily accomplished.

*Malachias Geiger, M. D.* in his *Kelegraphia*, or Treatise of *Ruptures*, printed at *Munich*, A. D. 1631, in 8vo, tells us in his Chap. of *Ruptures in General*, That as the Cure of all other Diseases, ſo the Cure of *Ruptures* is to be had from the Indications.— And that both Cauſes and Accidents, shew whether they are curable or not, viz. Time, Age, Situation, Nature and Magnitude of the Disease.— The Disease shews what's to be done. A *Rupture* indicates a Re-union, which is to be accomplish'd.— Partly by a well instituted Diet, according to due Quantities, Qualities, and their Contraries.— Partly by *Surgery*, and that either by Incision, Puncture, or Uſtion, by actual Cauſteries, or Potential Cauſticks.— Partly by Medicines

Medicines inwardly taken, or outwardly apply'd. — Partly without Medicines, as by Trusses, &c. of all, and singular, I shall treat in a particular Manner, that it may plainly appear to all Mankind, that this new Way of Curing *Ruptures*, so much boasted of by these Circulating Quacks, was never excogitated, far less invented by them.

Chap. 7. *Of an Enterocèle and Epiplocele*, i. e. a *Rupture* where the Gut and Caul are both fallen into the *Scrotum*.

Many, says he, have been, and are still cur'd without *Surgery*; but then these are only Children, young People, and such as lead a quiet, sedentary, easy Life, and whose *Ruptures* are recent, not labouring robust People, who are but seldom firmly cur'd, because we see upon the least straining, stretching, or other Violence, the old Defect returns.

As to the Cure he proposes (after *Leonellus* and innumerable others) three Intentions. The First is by Evacuating. The Second by Repassing. The Third by Consolidating the Breach, or the rent Part through which the Gut, &c. prolapses.

To attain the First, he proposeth *Emptying* the Intestines of Flatus, i. e. Wind, and Fæces, i. e. Fæcal Matter, and in this, after giving Variety of Forms, as Powders, Pills, Bolus's, Elect. Decoctions, &c. he leaves the Management

nagement to every one's Discretion, to suit the Purgative to the Patient's Pallate.

As this *Powder* to expel Wind.

Take the *Powder* of Zinger, Gallangal, Gloves, Cubebs, Long-Pepper, Aniseeds, three Ounces, Sugar of Anise six Ounces, mix and make a *Powder* to be given often, *alvi Incrementis prius depositis*, after *Emptying*, &c.

Or This *PO W D E R.*

Take the Species, or *Powder* of Aromatick Roses, *Dianisi* of each one Dram and half, Oil of sweet Fennel-Seeds half a Scruple, dropt into white Sugar.

His *Purging Pills.*

Take *Pills* of Cochiæ half a Dram, Diagred four Grains, make five *Pills*, and in the mean Time to use these or the following Carminatives upon an empty Stomach, as Diagalangal, Diacalamint, Diatrimon, Pipereon, &c.

Or this *Purging Potion.*

Take Rheubarb, Agarick trochifcated of each half a Dram, Spikenard, Lenitive Electuary half an Ounce, Syrup of Roses Solutive, one Ounce, mix and make a *Potion.*

Or

Or this *Purging Bolus.*

Take *Diacatholicon* and *Benedict. Laxativ.*  
of each one Dram, with Sugar, make a Bolus,  
see pag. 152.

Or this common *Purging Potion.*

Take Senna Leaves well pick'd half an Ounce, *Sem. Anisi*, Fennel, and any other Carminative, two Drams to four Ounces of the strain'd Liquor, add Syrup of Buchthorn one Ounce, to be repeated several Days.

In page 68. he mightily commends this Draught, whereof he ordered four Ounces every Morning fasting, for forty Days, where *Comfry Roots* are Chief; besides *Cinamon*, and other Carminatives, there's two Drams of Rheubarb torrified, as also he order'd 'em Wine medicated with *Comfry*, and other Specificks, during the whole Time of Cure, *Vide* pag. 68. 69, 70.

And in order to facilitate the Reduction of the Parts to their proper Places,

### The Emollient Clyster.

Take of the Roots and Leaves of *Althaea*, Mallows, Violets, Pellitory of the Wall, of each one Handful, Flowers of Chamomel, Melilot, Elder, of each half a Handful, Linseed, Fenugreek, Aniseeds, Fennel, of each one Ounce,

Ounce, boil them in Water, strain and dissolve Diacatholicon, half an Ounce, Oil of Chamomel four Ounces, mix and make a Clyster. Bags of the above, ply'd warm, till the Part be fit to be reduced.

### The following Clyster.

Take one Pound of the common Decoction for Clysters, dissolve in it one Ounce and half of brown Sugar, Honey of Roses, Hiera Piera, and Cassia, of each one Ounce, Oil of Chamomel three Ounces, common Salt six Drams.

As to the second Intention of Reponing, if the Intestines be stuff'd with Fæces, or Wind, that hinder the Reduction, the whole Abdomen, or lower Belly, is to be ply'd warm with Stupes, in the Decoction above, or Oil, till the Fæces be soften'd, and then ejected. The Reduction is to be gently essay'd. If Wind be the Fault, use the

### Following Fomentation.

Take of Chamomel Flowers, Melilot, Dill, and Pellitory of the Wall, of each one Handful, Linseed, Fenugreek, of each half an Ounce, boil them in a sufficient Quantity of Water for a Fomentation, to be us'd hot with a large Spunge, to which may be added Oil of Chamomel, and white Lillies.

The Intestine, Caul, or both being reduc'd, the Sick on his Back in Bed, the Cure is to be continued

continued in this Manner, a common *ad Herniam* Plaister (the Part being first shav'd) is to be apply'd after using this

### Astringent Fomentation.

Take Red Roses, Myrtles, Sumach, Hypocistis, Galls, Cypress-Nuts, and Leaves, of each one Handful, both the *Comfrys*, Saint John's-wort, of each half a Handful, bruise and boil them in Plantain Water, and Red-Wine, with a fourth Part of Vinegar, to the Consumption of half, to be us'd with a large Spunge, over the Breach which is to be anointed with

### The following Consolidating Ointment.

Take Oil of St. John's-wort, Myrtles of each half an Ounce, Mastich, Frankincense, Mummy, fine Bole, *Sanguis draconis*, Sarcocol, of each one Scruple, mix.

The Intestines, &c. being repon'd, the Patient on his Back in Bed, with his Plaister and Truss, the Cure is to be continued in the following Manner, During the whole Time he's to drink four Ounces of the following *Potion*, every Morning fasting, after Purging.

### The Consolidating *Potion*.

Take Bistort Roots one Ounce, both the *Comfrys*, Cinquefoil, of each half an Ounce, Hypocistis, Solomon's Seal, of each one Handful and a half, Sebesten, N°. 10. Dates, N°. 4. all

all the Myrabolans, of each one Dram, Red-Roses, and Rosemary Flowers, Cypres, of each one Pugil, boil all in Wine and Water, two Pounds, Honey of Roses, and Sugar equal Parts, *Alvi Execrementis prius depositis.*

### Or THIS,

#### Purging Decoction with Agglutinatives.

Take *Comfry Roots* two Ounces, Leaves of *Plantain*, *Valerian Roots*, *Millefoil*, *Tansey*, *Cypress-Nuts*, of each one Ounce, *Dates*, *Cinnamon*, *Anise*, of each one Dram, *Rheubarb* two Drams, with a sufficient Quantity of Wine, make a Decoction, three Ounces whereof sweeten'd with Sugar, is to be taken every Morning fasting forty Days.

These with a Plaister *de pelle Arietina*, and a well-fitted Truss, generally succeed in the Cure of recent *Ruptures*, especially in Children.

During the whole Time of Cure, a slender spare Diet is very convenient, but above all Rest, on Back in Bed, see *Hildan Obs. 54. Cent. 5.* The Body is to be kept open, and the Person to abstain from all violent Exercises, especially when the Belly is full, from riding hard trotting Horses, from all windy Food, or any Thing that may distend the Intestines: Hence all Leguminous Garden Stuff, Raw Fruits, are to be shun'd and carefully avoided, all Carminatives, as Fennel, and Aniseeds, and whatever

whatever expels Wind, are to be us'd in their Victuals.

And for Causticks, see vast Variety of Receipts, as that of *Guido*, that of *Fallopius*, *Fernelius*, *Chalmetaeus*, *Parey*, *Crucius*, and many others, us'd by them in securing in *Ruptures*, & hæc sunt Caustica illa quibus in Curandis Herniis utimur, see pag. 131. where the Way of applying them is fully and plainly taught.

*Gulielmus Fabricius Hildanus*, might have serv'd as one for all, seeing his Judgment and Skill in the *Healing Art*, as well as his Integrity in faithfully relating what hapn'd in his Practice, have render'd his Works the most Valuable of their Kind.

That most Diligent and Experienced Physician, in *Obs. 73. Cent. 6. pag. 592.* of his Works printed at *Frankfort Anno 1646.* in his Answer to Dr. *Rietman's Question*, Whether a *Rupture* in a Lady of Sixty Years of Age, could be perfectly cured ?

I (says he) very much doubt of a perfect Cure, nor do I believe that a *Rupture*, in any one of this Age, can be perfectly cured, without hurting the *Viscera.*: For a *Rupture* in a midling Age, is but seldom and rarely cured, much less in a crazy Age ; yet I remember, where a Cure has succeeded, but such rarely fall out, see *Cent. 5. Obs. 54.* of one *James Diefbach*, a most prudent Senator, whq remained

K perfectly

perfectly cured, from *Anno 1618*, to the Year 1627. See also another Example, *Cent. 2. Obs. 8.* &c. as also in *Ambrose Parey*, Book 8. Chap. 15. and I my self have cured several others.

Your next Question is, By what Remedies this Cure is to be essayed ?

I confess ingenuously, that in this crazy Age, I seldom load my Patients with many inward Medicines, having observed them for the most Part given almost in vain; unless the Patient has laid a long Time, internal Medicines are given without Success, as in the Case of the foresaid *Diesbach*, who used many Medicines, prescribed him by *Quercetan*, and *Riverius*, these two famed Physicians, but in vain, having refused to keep his Bed, but when afterwards he had been forced to lie on his Back for several Months, he was cured by a Truss alone.

As to Medicines, they are either internal or external. Internal operate either by a manifest, or Specifick Quality, those that act by their constringing and exsiccating Vertues, contract the Process of the *Peritonæum*, and stop the Passage, of which Authors propose an Infinity, as *Bistort*, *Plantain*, *Pentaphyll*. *Sanicle*, *Ladies-Mantle*, *Horse-Tail*, *Shepherd's-Purse*, *Cypress-Nuts*, *Balaust*, &c.

But in those advanced in Years, as your Patient is, I much suspect Medicines; for you know, that the *Viscera*, in such a crazy Age, are

are liable to Obstructions, and but dully perform their Natural Offices. It's to be feared, that the more noble *Viscera* may be hurt, by the inward Use of such Astringents, and by obstructing the Liver, and other Vessels, may be apt to do more hurt than good.

How dangerous a bound Belly is to ruptur'd People you well know?

Those Simples that are said to act by a Specifick Quality, I have often experienced with Success, are as follows.

The Roots of the greater *Comfrey*, *Rupturewort*, Earth-Worms, Spotted-Lungwort, *Priapus Cervi*, Seeds of Thorough-Wax, Mouse-ear, of which Powders, Electuaries, with Syrups, and Conserves of *Comfrey* Roots, Bolus's, or Pills may be made, as will best please the Patient, adding a little Cinamon, and Aniseeds, or their Chemical Oils, to discuss the Wind, and promote Digestion, for which End, the Pellicule, or inner Membrane of a Hen's Gizzard, may be also added.

Your noble Patient is to be particularly taken care of, that she don't err in Point of Diet; first, she is to abstain from all that may inflate, or distend the Stomach, or Guts with Wind. The Belly is always to be kept open, in order to void without straining, and this may be done with the Help of Cassia, new Pulpit, or Rheubarb, with candied Mirabolans, or even

with Laxative Prunes, and Clysters. So much  
for internal Medicines.

### As to Externals,

It's necessary they be Astringent in Form of  
Plasters, Unguents, or Bags.

Amongst Plasters, I find none better than  
*Arnoldus de villa nova*, his *Empl. de pelle Ari-*  
*tina*, in Imitation of which, infinite others  
have been proposed by Authors. This I often  
did, and do still use, in Childrens *Ruptures* ;  
but in those advanced in Years, I seldom do,  
because their Groins being hairy, that Plaister  
sticks so close, as to excite no small Pain, when  
about to be removed, since an Attraction of  
Humours moisten and relax the Parts affected.

Liniments being made of Oil, fat and astrin-  
gent Simples, in which the oily Faculty still  
predominates, the relaxed Parts, which ought  
to be constringed, are by the Use, of these more  
and more relaxed ; of such I don't much ap-  
prove ; therefore we are to have recourse to a-  
stringent Fomentations, such as this,

### Astringent Fomentation.

Take *Comfrey Roots*, *Bistort*, *Tormentil*, *Plantain*, *Leaves of Sanicle*, *Pyrola*, *Ladies-Mantle*, *Mouse-Ear*, *Horse-Tail*, *Cypress-Nuts*, *Galls*, *Pomegranates*, *Ballastians*, *Plantain-Seeds*, *Anise*, *Carraways*, *Cummin*, and such as discuss  
Wind. I also add for the most Part Salt, and  
Alom,

Alom, with these. I fill Bags large enough to cover the Groin, or at least the Part affected. They are to be boiled in Smith's Forge-Water, or Red-Wine, adding a little Vinegar.

I would advise your noble Patient to make use of these Bags in the Night Time only, and when in Bed ; and be sure after the Use of the Fomentation, to gird on their Truss tightly, and to wear the same constantly, for it's extremely dangerous to neglect wearing a Truss in People of that Age. For the Parts are apt to fall down, and to occasion an Iliac Passion, which puts an End to their Life in a few Days, of which *Hildan* gives several Examples, *Vide Page 589. 590.*

Seeing the Methods proposed by Authors for curing *Ruptures*, are best illustrated by Examples, especially when we have them from Men of Probity, and great Experience, with all the particular Circumstances that are proper to be observed, in order to point out to young Practitioners what's to be avoided, and what's to be put in Practice. I shall therefore on their Account set down a few, which I am perswaded will prove of great Use to those who will strictly follow them.

*Hildan* in *Obs. 70. Cent. 6.* has several Observations concerning *Ruptur'd* Patients, communicated to him by the Learned *Abel Roscius*.

In May 1626, *Peter Burges*, a most prudent Senator, and Governor of the Hospital at Lau-

fan, had been for several Years troubled with an Enterocèle, or Scrotal *Rupture*, which proceeded from a Dilatation, and distended Relaxation of the *Peritoneum*, as was plain from its being so easily reduced, when fallen down, if by Chance at any Time he had neglected his Truss.

Upon riding a long Journey, on a hard trotting Horse, his Truss being slack, his *Rupture* proved very uneasy to him, the Part affected being over-heated by the constant Jolting of the Horse, and rubbing of the Truss, Inflammations, and sharp Pains were occasioned; so that the Hole, or Belly was affected, an Iliac Passion succeeded, with a dreadful Belly-ach, Constipation, constant vomiting, and other Symptoms of that Disease.

When he came, upon examining, he found the *Scrotum* turgid with Fæces, and Flatus's, not to be reduced, so without delay, ordered him an emollient Clyster, Fomentations, and Cataplasms, to the Part, after the Use of which, he endeavoured gently to reduce the Intestines, &c. for by rough handling the inflamed Intestines, already too much lesed, he might have induced a fatal Gangrene, as he had often seen others do in such Cases.

Notwithstanding of all that had been used, the Symptoms enraged, he vomited his Clysters, and all within him seemed to be inverted; yet he ordered him another Clyster, to which was added some Lenitive, and purging Electuary, Bags

Bags with the Ingredients for the Fotus's were apply'd, moderately warm, lest by the actual Heat, the subjected Parts, already too much bruised, and galled, might be more hurt, a Circumstance few Quacks observe ! The neglecting of which has been the Cause of many fatal Errors committed by them, and tho' his Hic-cup, Dilirium, and every Thing threatening Death encreased, yet I continued still the Use of these Things, nor did I desert my Patient in this desperate Case, but used the utmost Diligence I was capable of, and with fresh Courage ventured on another Clyster, to which I caused add Catholicon, Hiera Piera, Colocynth, *cum* Ol. Lil. &c. with a Cataplasm to the *Scrotum*, and whole lower Belly, his Stomach being first anointed with Ol. Nuc. Myrist. about an Hour or two after the Clyster and Fomentation, a gentle Reduction was tried again, and by little and little the Parts were reponed to their Place, and immediately this Medicine was given. Take Syrup. Ros. Comp. Helleborat with one Dram and half, Diaphen. half an Ounce, Aq. Imperial. two Ounces. About three Hours after he had some Mutton and Chicken Broth, the Clyster he retained, did not cast up his Medicine, rested a little, then purged twice.

And because he did not sleep well, I ordered him a Paregorick Draught of Diacod. &c. Two Hours before Bed-Time, when he awaked, he had two Motions more, eat his Chicken Broth, and in the Morning, the fourth Day, took the following Dose.

Take Infus. Rheubarb one Dram and a half, Syr. Ros. Sol. Diaphen. two Drams, by which he had three or four gentle Motions, no vomiting following. Next Day I gave him Aq. Imperialis one Ounce and half, *cum* Pulv. Diarrhord & Confect. Hiacinth one Scruple. On the seventh Day he repeated the Purge, and on the tenth Day the Disease which was judged to be mortal, by the Strength of Nature, and the Help of our Remedies, was sensibly overcome. I seriously advised him to a regular Diet, and well-adapted Truss, that he might not fall into such a dangerous Way as before. But on the Twelfth, after he had appeared in Publick, not so much on the Caution and Guard as he ought to have been, the Intestine again fell down into his *Scrotum*, which could not be reduced, being vexed with the same Symptoms as had before troubled him, the same Things were used with reiterated *Purgings*, &c. the Parts were reduced to their proper Place, and in a few Days, he was restored to his former Health, and did not complain from that Time, but to this Day does all his Busines, whether on Foot, or on Horse-back, standing, or walking, or any other Exercise, by the Help of the Truss, and a regular Diet.

*Obs. 2. of a Ruptured Patient cured.*

An. 1598, Abel Roscius, in his Epistle to *Hil-*  
*dan*, tells us, That his Sister was seized with  
an Iliac Passion, occasioned by an Inquinal  
*Rupture*; that the Feyer, no Sleep, and ex-  
tream

tream Pain, yielded to no Remedies ; that she vomited three Clysters, but so soon as they found out the Cause of this Volvulus, they plied again with Laxative Clysters, Fomentations and Cataplasms of the same, with *Stercus Ovillum*, constantly for a whole Night together, when next Day gently, and by Degrees, the Intestine was put up into its Place, and when reduced, a Laxative Clyster was given her, by which her Intestines were emptied, and then the whole Symptoms ceased, and she who was given over for dead, is now well, and was never after troubled with an Iliac Passion, tho' she be now Sixty Five.

Had I been writing to Physicians and Surgeons only, I had been justly censurable for the following Quotations, so numerous and so much alike : But when I address, as I here do, all Ranks of Persons, the Necessity I have thereby laid my self under, obliges me to make every thing as plain, as the Nature of the Subject will permit, and however Redundant these already, as well as those Citations which follow, may appear to the former, to whom the bare mentioning and referring to Authors, had been more than sufficient ; yet to the latter, it wou'd seem fit to point out what each I have adduc'd, has said on the Head, for it were as useless, as it wou'd be endless, to fetch Proofs from every Author, who has handled or treated this Subject. Those Gentlemen then, who shall think fit, to while away a little of their time, in perusing what follows, I shall for their Sakes

Sakes (whose Studies lie otherways, and may perhaps never have an Opportunity to look into any of these Authors) be a little more Particular, and bring a few out of that cloud of Witnesses, to prove that Purging in Ruptures is of an early Date ; for this I begin with *Leonides*.

*Leonides*, who is said by some to have liv'd 413 Years before Christ, of whom we have some Fragments collected by *Aetius*, in his *Med. Græc. Contract ex veteribus Medicinæ. tetrab. 4 Serm. 2. pag. 255.* of an intestinal Rupture.

A Rupture (says he) is a Disease wherein the Gut sometimes falls down into the Groin, sometimes into the Scrotum, which is the Cause of much Disorder, and many Troubles, brings on a miserable Life, and the Danger of Death. — When the Intestines in Scroto are distended with hardn'd Excrements, they often occasion Inflammations and Iliac Passions. — This Disease proceeds from a relaxation or breach of the Peritonæum. An Inquinal soon becomes a scrotal Rupture, for when neglected, and the Tumour increaseth, it forceth its Way into the Scrotum. And truly such a Rupture, when extremely bad, is only to be cur'd by Surgery, and that not without Danger. — In such a Rupture, attended with an Iliac Passion, we are immediately to endeavour a Reduction, by placing the Sick in a proper Posture, and if the neighbouring Parts are swell'd

swell'd and much inflam'd, we are not to repone, untill by Fomentations, &c. these Symptoms cease, and sometimes when the Parts are hugely distended, we are to scarifie in order to prevent a Mortification.

If the Fæces (says he *tetr. 4 cap. 23.*) be the Obstacle, the Belly is to be mov'd with a Clyster. If Wind, beside the Clyster, the Part is to be fomented, &c. *in cap. 26. tetr. 3. Serm 1. Quæ cura alvo adstricta adbibenda.* You have variety of laxative and purging Medicines against Constipations.

In Chap. 28. *de volvulo Archigenis*, we are told that it often happens to those whose Intestines are impacted with Excrements in Scroto, that if then they are violently protruded or handled an Inflammation is excited, in which Case oily Clisters, wherein Cuminseeds, Rue, and Marsh-mallows had been boil'd, emollient Fomentations are of great Use, as also Applications of large Bladders fill'd with Bran boil'd in the former, or the like Decoction, apply'd warm to the Parts, which together with Laxative Pills of Aloes, or any other, wou'd move the Belly, and Draughts of Carminative Decoctions, as of Aniseeds, Dill, &c. sweetn'd, gave Relief, and facilitated the Reduction.

*Archigenes* purg'd his ruptur'd Patients with Aloes one Dram, *omnes causas* (says he) *affectionem operantes secum subducit*; but if the Pains remain'd or increas'd, then he had recourse

course to Opiates. If the Iliac Passion proceeded from the Intestines in Scroto, he adviseth purging gently, and when repon'd to be kept up with a proper Bandage. — If the Inflammation proceed from a Compression, he orders Bleeding and Fasting three Days; and says he, by giving Hiera Picra for some time, I restor'd the Parts in one.

Galen in such a Case, order'd his ruptur'd Patients to be purg'd often with Aloes. *Ventrem Exonerare tentet Catapotis ex Aloe.* — If these did not do, then purging Clysters, besides several other Purgatives, both simple and compound.

Aretæus tells us, pag. 13. cap. 5. 6. That an Iliac Passion often befalls those, whose Intestines are prolaps'd into the *Scrotum*, i. e. those who are troubl'd with a compleat *Rupture*. Whatever irritates and expels Wind is good, as *Elatierium*, Cumin, or Rue, or oily Carminative Clysteis, and Fomentations of Emollients, which are always friendly to the Intestines. — Infinite others have been invented and approved, but if neither the Pain abate, nor the Excrements be ejected, *Purgatorium Pharmacum quod Hieram vocant necessario dandum est*; a purging Medicine call'd *Hiera Piera*, must necessarily be given. — Aliments of a loosening Nature, to keep the Body open, must be given in Cock-Broth, Barley or Chicken-Broth, &c. Oil of sweet Almonds may be drunk with the Broth, or what else will keep the Body open, all which will be profitable, as also a Decoction of sweet Fennel-

Fennel-Roots, with a good deal of Cinnamon,  
for ordinary Drink.

*Paul, Lib. 3. Cap. 44,* When the Intestines fall down into the *Scrotum*, as in a compleat *Rupture*, an Iliac Passion is often excited by the Excrements impacted and retained there; in which Case the proper Antidotes are Purgatives, and in short, all Carminatives, and others prescribed in the Chapter of Cholicks. If the Obstruction occasioned by the Fæces retained remain, a Purge of Scammony, or Aloes, will be convenient, and then a gentle Reduction is to be essay'd, the Sick on his Back, with his Thighs elevated, &c.

*Alexander Trallianus* born as some say about A. D. 360, purg'd his *Ruptur'd* Patients, as he did those in Iliac Passions, and Cholicks, with Aloes, Hiera Piera, sometimes with an Addition of a little Scammony, *aut Paulo ampliore aut minore modo ipsos purgabis*, to which he very often added Aniseeds, sweet Fennel, Cinnamon, &c.

That Aloes and Scammony, with Aromatick Spices, were the common Purgatives us'd by the Ancient Greek Physicians, in Iliac Passions, caus'd by *Ruptures*, is plain from their Works.—Most of all their Hiera's have both these Ingredients in 'em, as *Hiera Composita Galeni, Archigenis, Logadii, Ducis, Theodoreti, Justii, Ruffi, Constantini, Purgatorium ad Colicos Eu-chirii*, which *Asterius* us'd, *Purgatorium Panaretum dictum*, which *Heraclitus Cous.* us'd, with

with a vast many more, had all both these Ingredients in 'em. — To instance in all, wou'd be an endless Labour, I shall therefore pass 'em over, as I shall over all these barbarous Ages, when Learning of all Sorts lay as it were bury'd in Oblivion, till it began to revive in *Italy*, when Physick and Philosophy were translated, especially *Aristotle's Works*, which in the Days of *Frederick the IIId, Emperor*, were rescu'd out of the Hands of the *Saracens*, and publickly taught in the Universities about the Year 1214.

*Thadæus* taught Physick at *Bononia*, about the Year 1270, and from him many eminent Physicians were given to *Europe*, as *Dinus de Garbo*, &c. In these Days many learn'd Men adorn'd the Universities of *Italy*, and drew the curious Enquirers after Science, from all the neighbouring Nations, to whose Labours the World is mightily indebted; not only Physick, but Surgery made a great Progress there, by *Jo. de Vigo*, *Jac. Bereng Carp. Marianus*, *Barolitan*, &c. but also in *France* by *Guido*, &c. So that to mention but the 100 Person who has treated Ruptures wou'd be troublesome. I shall, as briefly as I can, consult those following.

*Nic. Bertrurius, A. D. 1250.*

This famous Practical Physician purg'd his ruptur'd Patients, as did his Scholar *Guido*, with two Drams of Rhubarb, Diaprun, Solutiv. and order'd the Part to be fomented after Reduction, with a Decoction of Cypres Peels,

Peels, Balaustans, Galls, and Alom in red Wine, with a Rupture Plaister, and the Sick to keep his Bed for Fifty Days, and if he went abroad, to wear a well fitted Trusf over the Plaister, and in the mean time, according to Paul's Advice to give a medicated Wine, wherein Cypres Peels, &c. were infus'd, or this call'd.

*Guido's Powder.*

Take Roots of *Comfry* the greater, *Solomon's Seal*, Plantain, Valerian, Pimpernell, of each one Ounce, Nuc. Cypress, Nutmegs, Cinamon, *Rhubarb* torrified, Coriander Seed, of each two Drams. Sang. Drac. Mastic, of each one Dram, make a Powder, Dose one Dram, to be taken every Morning fasting, drinking after it about a Gill of medicated red Wine. He also order'd one Dram of the Powder of *Comfry Roots* by it self, to be taken every Morning, washing it down with a Glafs of red Wine.

In a compleat Rupture, says he, when the Intestine is in the Scrotum Fatus's of emollients, as Chamomel, Linseed, &c. are to be us'd, and the Surgeon to endeavour to repone it gently, and by Degrees. *Aut elatis cruribus succutietur, dato prius suppositorio aut Clystere acri.* Jo. Riolan's Meth. Med. Part 1598.

*Bertrutius* in his tr. 3. sect. 3. cap. 2. Taught another Way of reducing a prolapsed Intestine, by immersing the Body in cold Water up to the Navel. *In fessu aquæ frigidæ usque ad*

*ad umbilicum prolapsum Intestinum docuit reponi,*  
 and this he had from his Master Hippocrates,  
 who in his Book *de Humid. usu*, declared that  
 cold Water restored a prolaps'd Uterus, *Ita ut*  
*Uteros prolapsos & refrigeratos ita foveat*, Hip.  
*l. 2. de Morb. Mul. N°. 28. 29.*

Hippocrates omnium vero primus lib. de Sterilitate, cum prolapsam vulvam aqua frigidissima sub divum exposita restituit. Galen 6 Meth. Ad reponenda quoque Intestina in ventrem transfossum, ad dolentem quoque, & inflamatam Sedem, & rectum Intestini utendam, sive de fessu, sive foementis, aquam Hippocrates docuit in l. de Fistulis, N°. 3. Galen Lib. 6. Meth. c. 4. Inflatum vero Intestinum ex percusso abdomine prolapsum quod reduci facile non potest aqua calente fovet.

Dr. Baynard gave Sir John Floyer an Account of a Person cur'd of a *Rupiure* by the cold Bath at London, which must be effected, says Sir J. by the contracting of the relax'd Peritonæum, and by this Cure we may be directed to try the Virtue of cold Baths in the *Procedentia Uteri & Ani*, and in Tumors of the Hæmorrhoids.

Avenzoar Med. Arabs fl. Al. 1130. tells us of a young Man who lay two Months on his Back, and by the sole Use of a Laxative Diet, and a good Regimen, was entirely freed from his *Rupture*.

Matth. de Gradi. de Ruptura Siphach, he was an Excellent Practical Physician, a Publick

lick Professor of Physick at *Ticinum* or *Pavia* in *Italy*; in his *Commentaries on Rhasis, ad Almansorem*, you'll find most singular Remedies for *Ruptures*.

*Guido de Cauliaco, Tract. 6. Doct. 11. p. 247.*

1353, The Cure of *Ruptures* by Medicines, he begins with Purging, he dischargeth his Patients from all flatulent Foods, orders 'em to lie Quiet, keep an open Belly with Clysters, Cassia, Diacathol. &c. To use Carminatives in all they eat, and one Dram of his Powder in a Gill of Red-Wine every Morning, wherein *Comfrey*, *Solomon's Seal*, and *Rheubarb*, are the Chief, which is given in order to facilitate the Reduction with the Help of Emollient Fos'tus's, Clysters, &c. but when reduc'd, he fomented the Part with Astringents, as Cypress-Nuts, A-lom, &c. in Wine. A Plaister he renew'd every nine Days, in removing of which he held his Fingers on the Part, till he apply'd the other with a-well-fitted Truss, and fifty Days Rest in Bed; he generally succeeded: The Plaister was that *de pelle Arietina*, or *Rhafis's*, or *Avicenna's*.

*Fallopis* born *A. D. 1490*, in his Works printed at *Venice* 1606 fol. vol. 3. p. 93, Manifold (says he) are the Medicines us'd both outwardly and inwardly in the Cure of *Ruptures*, all of which are to be directed to this one Scope, that after Reduction, the Part *ruptur'd*, or relax'd, is to be Consolidated. The Patient is to wear a-well-fitted Truss constantly, to keep Bed, and much on his Back, forty, or at most

eighty Days ; and when the Intestines are reduc'd by the common Means, as Bathing with Emollients, Purging, &c. the Part over the Breach may be fomented with an Astringent Decoction.

He generally cur'd Children in thirty Days, with the common Specificks, with Cypress-Nuts boil'd in Wine, and a Dram of the Powder of these Nuts every Morning, washing it down with mull'd Red-Wine.

And to those advanc'd in Years, he gave the Powder of *Comfry Roots*, with *Rheubarb*, Mace, Cinamon, &c. or four or five Ounces of a Decoction of 'em, in rough Red-Wine every Morning, after taking two Drams of an Ele-ctuary, wherein *Comfry Roots* are Chief, for thirty or forty Days.

*Rembertus Dodonæus, Nat. Machlineæ, 1517,* tells us, That when the Intestine is out of its Place, the Symptoms are sometimes dreadful, and when Incarcerated often fatal, in which Case we are immediately to procure a Reduction, for which End Emollient Clysters, Fomentations, gentle Purges, and all that will free 'em of Flatus, and Fæces, are to be us'd ; for when they are empty, it's easy to repone.

— That in an Iliac Passion, occasion'd by a *Rupture*, when nothing wou'd give Ease, he gave a Scruple of *Pill Iliacæ*, describ'd by *Rhasis*, in his ninth Book to *Almanz*. — That with such a Dose he cur'd a *Spanish Soldier*, who was

was given over for Dead, in an Iliac Passion, caus'd by a *Rupture*.

About the Year 1507, *Gul. Rondeletius* was born at *Montpelier*, studied Phylick and Anatomy under *Guinter Andernacus*, and was afterwards Chancellor of that University, in his *Methodus Morb. Cur.* l. 7. p. 427, in a compleat *Rupture*, he tells us, how he purg'd with *Catholicon* two Ounces, *Cassia*, *Sebestens*, of each one Dram, *Rheubarb* two Drams, Aniseeds one Dram, with the *Syr. Ros. Solutiv.* make an Opiat. Dos. one Ounce in Form of a Bolus.

A Fomentation wherein *Comfry* was Chief, with a Common *Rupture* Plaister, and a well-fitted Truss, and during the whole Time, us'd a Carminative Powder of Aniseeds, Fennel, Coriander, of each two Ounces, Sugar four Ounces, mix and make a Powder, to be taken twice a Day, keeping the Body always free with the foresaid Opiat, drinking Broth of an old Cock. He orders the *Empl. de pelle Arietis*, to be worn for three Months constantly, with a well-adapted Truss, *Rejectis igitur mane alvi & vesicae Excrementis pars relaxata fovenda cum Spongia dec. Callid.*

About the Year 1517, flourish'd *John de Vigo*, who in his 7th Chapter of *Ruptures*, begun the Cure with Emptying, or as he calls it, an Universal Purgation, in order to facilitate the Reduction. As This,

Take Diacatholicon fix Drams, Diaphænicon three Drams, Rheubarb one Scruple, with a Decoction of the Cordial Flowers, and Syrup of Violets one Ounce, make a Dose.

An Astringent Fomentation to be us'd after  
the Gut is reduc'd.

Take Red-Roses, Balaustians, Pomegranates, Myrtle, Plantain, of each one Handful, *Comfrey* Roots, Cypress-Nuts, N°. 12. Hipocist. half an Ounce, Alom two Ounces, St. John's-wort, Vinegar of Roses, &c. boil all in Red-Wine, to the Consumption of half, strain, and with this warm, bathe the Part with a Spunge, with an *ad Herniam* Plaister, and a-well-fitted Trusſ, to be chang'd twice a Week, the Patient in Bed, observing all the Time a proper Diet, rather roasted than boil'd, and Food of good Nourishment, with Cinamon, Mint, and *Comfrey*, &c. which gave him both Honour and Profit, and where-with he cur'd many.

*Hercules Saxonius Nat. Patav. 1551. pag. 211.*  
This Celebrated Physician was Professor of Practice in *Padua*, order'd his *Ruptur'd* Patients to be purg'd with *Cassia*, Elect. of the Juyce of Roses, with Diagred. and when an Iliac Passion was occasion'd by the *Rupture*, he says, we may try all Things, rather than suffer the Excrements to come up at the Mouth, and therefore we may venture to give *Elaterium* five Grains, whatever the Matter be. Let no Man object that the Inflammation prohibits these

these Things ; for an Inflammation when it is fix'd, is treated with hot and digesting Things, therefore though they be hot, they do no harm, and the Abundance of Excrements retain'd, does more harm than Physick does if it purge ; and thus an Inflammation, when the Intestine is fallen into the *Scrotum*, is to be treated ; but if it be without an Inflammation, the Reduction is immediately to be essay'd by the common Means of Emolient Decoctions, Clysters, &c. of Mallows, Marsh-Mallows, Linseed, Chamomel-Flowers, &c. with Carminatives, as Cumin, Aniseeds, Rue, Laurel-Berries, &c. — When the Excrements are much hardn'd, Emolient Clysters are best, or as *Hippocrates* did, they are to be put into a Bath, with Emolient Herbs, and to use the following Powder ;

Take Rheubarb one Dram, Cinamon five Grains, Sugar half a Dram, to be given in Broth or warm Wine.

*Chalmetæus* was *Rondeletius*'s Scholar at Montpelier 1507, and *Anton. Saporta*, in his *Enchiridion Chirurg.* pag. 168. de *Enterocèle & Epiplocele*, orders the Belly to be kept always open, especially in a compleat *Rupture*, lest the Excrement hardn'd in the Gut in *Scroto*, create much Trouble. — The Humours being prepar'd, the Body to be emptied by Purging. That Rheubarb, Tamarinds, and all the Myrabolans, are proper, as are all that leave an Astringent Quality after 'em. — But his common Purgative was Aloephæginae Pills, three at Night going to Bed, the Bigness of a Nutmeg

meg every Morning fasting, of an Electuary whereof *Comfry Roots* and *Solomon's Seal* were Chief.— And to strengthen the Part, Topicks were apply'd of *Balaustians*, *Plantain*, *Rose-Leaves*, *Comfry*, &c. boil'd in Red-Wine, and *Smith's Forge-Water*; and in the mean Time a Decoction of equal Parts of *Comfry Roots*, and *Osmond-Royal* in Wine and Water, mix'd with Syrup of *Quinces* for common Drink; the Sick in the mean Time to keep Bed.

*Jac. Fontanus*, first Physician of Practice at Paris 1591, began his Cure of *Ruptures* with Evacuations, lest the Fæcal Matter increase in the Intestines, they are to be emptied; and us'd proper Clysters, Purges, Fomentations, and Poultices, that the Intestine might be repon'd to its proper Place, &c.

*Jo. Crato a Cramphheim*, born at *Breslaw*, the Chief of *Silesia*, in 1519, was afterwards Physician to three Emperors. In his Epistles and Councils, 14. p. 65. ad d. Hier. *Donzelin*, begun his Cure with *Pil. Angelic*. where Aloes is Chief, and in the mean Time us'd Fomentations, Clysters, &c. in order to reduce the Intestine, made him drink Cock, or Chicken-Broth, wherein *Comfry Roots* were boil'd, every Morning fasting, and to lie in Bed; for Table-Drink Wormwood-Wine, to eat much *Ginger* preserv'd in Syrup, Aniseeds, or any Thing else that breaks Wind, seeing nothing is more troublesome to *ruptur'd* Patients.

*Conf.-15. D. Jo. Segismund.*

To facilitate the Reduction of the Parts pro-laps'd, he order'd the Intestines to be emptied, and his Patient to keep on his Back in Bed, for which End he ordered Emollient Fomentations, Clysters, &c. with a Draught where *Comfry Roots*, *Solomon's Seal*, with Aniseeds, &c. were Chief, to be taken twice a Day for a Month together, which when reduc'd, with a *Rupture Plaister*, and a-well-adapted Trus's, renew'd every fifth Day, he perfected his Cure, but order'd the Plaister and Trus's to be continued for a Year, when the *Ruptur'd* Part wou'd be thoroughly Consolidated, and now and then he order'd Cassia, new Pulpt, with Aniseeds, in Powder, to keep the Body open. To some he gave every other Day nine or ten Spoonfuls of a purging Decoction, wherein Rheubarb, Senna, Cinnamon, Aniseeds, and other Carminatives were boil'd, and sweetn'd with Honey of Roses.

If it did not purge enough, a Bolus of El. Lenitiv. two Drams, with a Diaphænic. four Scruples, at Night was given.

If it purge too much, abstain two or three Days, then take of a Corroborating Conserve at Night, going to Bed, as Conf. Roses one Dram, Species Ros. Nov. half a Dram, Cort. Citron two Drams, with Syr. of Roses f. Conditum.

As for an Inveterate *Rupture*.

Having purg'd sufficiently after Reduction, he us'd an Astringent Fomentation, whereof *Comfry Roots*, *Tormentil*, *Red-Roses*, and *A-loim*, were Chief, with this the Part was fomented warm, a *Rupture Plaister*, and a well-fitted Truss were apply'd. — He, as all other Authors, forbid all windy Food, and enjoin'd 'em to live on a spare Diet.

*Bartkoloineus Montagnana*, about 1417, treated his *Ruptur'd Patients* after the same Manner, only gave by Way of Electuary, half an Ounce every Morning fasting, for forty Days together, *Comfry Roots*, with *Mouse-ear*, in fine Powder, with *Sugar of Roses*, and *Juyce of Plantain*, keeping the Body the whole Time open with *Aloetick Pills*, us'd the same Clysters, Fomentations, &c. a Plaister and a well-fitted Truss, *Ego Montag. Med. ita scribo H. Card. vidit & fuit ex Consensu.*

*Peter de Franco* in his *Traite des Hernies Li-ons* 1561, is very particular and full on this Head. If in a compleat *Rupture*, the Reduction proves troublesome, Emollient Fomentations, Clysters, &c. are to be us'd. He chiefly recommends Purgatives for that End, of *Pil. Aggregativ.* two Scruples, and a purging Potion with *Rheubarb* one Dram, *Diaphænicon* two Drams, *Melros.* one Ounce for a Potion, to be taken Fasting. And when, says he, the Intestines are sufficiently emptied, you are to endeavour

endeavour to reduce them, as gently as possible, and when re-plac'd, you are to retain 'em, with a common *Rupture* Plaister, and a well-fitted Trus's, the Patient keeping on his Back in Bed, for forty or fifty Days. To move as little as possible, to abstain from all flatulent windy Food, Excess in Eating and Drinking, from all violent Exercises, and Strainings. Be sure to keep the Body always open, lest the Fæcal Matter harden, by which the *Peritonæum* being compress'd, the Consolidation may be hinder'd. Sometimes he purg'd with *Pil. Aloë-phanginæ*, and Rheubarb, and during the whole Time, he order'd the Bigness of a Walnut, in a Draught of Red-Wine, every Morning, of an Electuary, whereof *Comfry Roots* in fine Powder, with Rheubarb, Cinamon, Aniseeds, &c. were Chief, which with the Rest, see in the foreaid Book.

Joa. Jac. Wecker 1562, in his *Syntax Cap.*

30. de *Epiplocele* & *Enterocèle*.

Tells us, If the *Rupture* proceed from a Breach, desiccating, consolidating, and astringing Medicines are proper; if from Relaxation, Astringents alone are sufficient, of which he gives several Forms, to be us'd both inwardly and outwardly.

The Simples he us'd, and recommends, are *Comfry Roots*, *Solomon's Seal*, or the same in fine Powder, to be wash'd down with Red-Wine, or four Ounces of the Compound following.

Take

Take *Comfry Roots*, *Bistort*, *Solomon's Seal*, *Mirabolans*, *Aniseeds*, *Cress-Seeds*, of each two Ounces, *Rosemary-Flowers*, *Roses* of each one Pugil, boil 'em in Red-Wine and Water, wherein dissolve Honey and Sugar, of each equal Parts, after due purging and emptying the Intestines of their *Flatus* and *Fæces*.

He also gave the Bigness of a Nutmeg of an Electuary, of the Conserve of *Comfry*, *Roses*, *Nutmegs*, &c. every Morning fasting, washing it down with a Draught of Red-Wine, for thirty Days together, which with a Plaister *de pelle Arietina*, and a well-fitted Truss, generally does the Busines, effectually in Children and young People. See him at large.

*Jo. Tagaultius Institut. Chirurg. p. 195.* about 1544, in Scrophulous Cases, old Ulcers, and *Ruptures*, says he, we use purging Medicines. Those Surgeons who preceded *Guido*, gave Draughts of Vulnerary Decoctions, as of *Comfry Roots*, &c. in Water and Wine, fasting.

*Jo. Marquard Praet. Spiræ 1583*, in a *Hernia Intestinalis*, or compleat *Rupture*, gave *Pills*, *Powders*, *Syrups*, and *Electuaries*, where *Comfry Roots*, and *Solomon's Seal*, were the chief Ingredients, for thirty or forty Days together; purging twice or thrice a Week with *Aloetick Pills*, made up with Aromatick Spices, as *Cinnamon*, *Cloves*, *Cardamons*, &c. he also us'd Emolient Fomentations, and Clysters, in order to reduce, a common *Rupture* Plaister and Truss.

Truss. See him at large, and *Guido Lanfranc* who thus cur'd Children.

*Hieronymus Capivaccius Nat. Pat.* 1587, in his Works printed at *Francfort* 1594, begun the Cure of *Ruptures* with purging, us'd Fomentations, &c. to facilitate the Reduction, and when reduc'd, an Astringent Fomentation, wherein *Comfry*, Horse-Tail, Cinquefoil, *Pomegranates*, Cypress-Nuts, &c. were boil'd in rough Wine and Water, and with a Cerat of Mastic, Aloes, Isinglass, &c. or a Plaister *de pelle Arietina*, with a proper Truss, he succeeded in the Cure in young People.

*Nic. Piso lib. 3. p. 848. apud Wechelum* 1580, in the Cure of a *Bubonocele*, or Groin *Rupture*, he begins with gentle Purgatives, as of Rheubarb, Aloes, &c. Aloephanginæ Pills, or Caffia, new Pulpt, that with much Rest, and a good Truss, he had restor'd many, without any other Remedy. In order to reduce the Parts, he (as most Authors do) us'd Emolient Fomentations, Clysters, &c. and order'd the Patient to be laid on his Back, and the Parts to be gently repon'd. — pag. 847.

#### A Powder for Childrens *Ruptures*:

Take *Comfry Roots* in fine Powder, Red-Roses, Betony, of each three Drams, Mastic one Dram, fine Bole two Scruples, Mummy one Dram and half, Sugar of Roses double the Weight of the Whole, mix and make a Powder, whereof give one Dram every Morning

ing fasting, drinking after it three Ounces of the following

### A P O Z E M.

Take *Rupture-wort* two Handfuls, of the Roots of Osmond-Royal, and *Solomon's Seal*, of each one Ounce, *Comfrey* Roots one Ounce and a half, boil'd or infus'd in Red-Wine and sweetn'd.

*Franc. Peccet l. 1. c. 43. de Herniis p. 531;*  
*Ruptur'd Children, by Reason of their Tenderness,* may be easily cur'd by Medicines, Adults not without manual Operation.

The Body is to be purg'd, in order to reduce the Intestine, and *Omentum*. The Body to be kept open, lest in straining, the Parts be offended. A good but spare Diet is proper. All flatulent Food to be avoided. Astringent Wine with Chaly beated Waters, wherein Cinnamon, Coriander, Aniseeds, &c. have been boil'd. — After due Purging, both Internal and External Means may be us'd, either in Form of Pills, Electuary, or otherways. The Roots of *Comfrey*, *Solomon's Seal*, with other Vulneraries, or they may be boil'd in Red-Wine, to the Consumption of a Third; to the strain'd Liquor, a sufficient Quantity of Sugar is to be added, to make it palatable; two or three more Ounces of it may be given every Morning fasting, *pro Etatis ratione*. — An Electuary may be made of *Comfrey* Roots in fine Powder, Nutmegs, Cinnamon, Aniseeds, &c. with

with Syrup of Myrtles. If these, with a fit Plaister, and Truss, do not do, Recourse must be had to *Surgery*, either by Incision, or Ustion, as *Celsus*, *Paul*, and *Albucasis* tells us.

*Scultetus*, in his *Armamentarium Chirurgicum*, Nat. 1595 pag. 180, began his Cure with Purging, see his Electuary pag. 193, of common Simples, call'd by some Specificks, whereof *Comfry* is Chief, the Bigness of a Wallnut to be taken every Morning fasting, drinking after it a Glass of Red-Wine, medicated with the foreaid Simples. Great Care is to be had, that the Body be kept open daily, lest straining, as when the Excrements are hardn'd, do much Mischief; for this End, he orders the same Pills, prescrib'd by *Aquapendens*, one Scruple every Night before Supper, and a purging Clyster. When forty Days are pass'd, the Sick may rise, but he's to continue his Plaister and Truss.—I've cur'd, says he, Multitudes whose Names I conceal, by the foreaid Remedies, and restor'd 'em to their former Health, by using a good Diet, a good Truss, and the Bigness of a Wallnut of an Electuary of *Comfry* Roots, Cort. Citron, Orange candied, Fennel-Seeds, &c. with Syrup of Myrtles, or Coral q. s. to be taken every Morning fasting, washing it down with a Glass of Red-Wine, medicated with *Comfry* Roots, *Solomon's Seal*, *Rupture-wort*, thorough-Wax, Plantain, Fennel-Seeds, &c.

*Aquapendens Franci*. 1620 cap. 32. *de Cura Herniae*, The Body is to be purg'd, in order to reduce.

reduce the Parts prolaps'd. Moist and windy Meats are to be avoided, and all violent Exercises. — Bread well bak'd, with Aniseeds in it, Flesh rather roasted than boil'd. — Wine must be Astringent. You may purge with Manna, Agarick, Honey of Roses, &c. with astringent Agglutinatives, as *Comfry Roots*, *Rupture-wort*, &c. but if these don't do, the Sick is to keep his Bed for forty Days, and abstain from all Excess, and to take half an Ounce of an Electuary, whereof *Comfry Roots*, with Rheubarb, Nutmegs, and other Astringent Powders, as Bole, Dragon's-Blood, Mastick, &c. are Chief; a common *Rupture Plaster*, with a well-fitted Truss, to be worn over it, during the whole Time of Cure, and even afterwards, till it be judg'd safe to leave 'em of, and thus a *Rupture*, in a young and tender Body, is to be cur'd.

*Guernerus Rolfineius Nat. Hamburg 1599* & *Curandi, & 1655*, tells us in his Works Epit. Cognosc. of a Woman of Thirty, cur'd of an Iliac Passion, when she vomited up her Fæces, very offensive, occasion'd by the strangulated Intestine in an Inquinal *Rupture*, cur'd by Purging with five Antimonial Clysters. The Looseness continued several Days, and so excessive, as to require an Opiat to stop it, but so propitious, as to relieve her of both the Iliac Passion and *Rupture*.

Dorncrellius M. D. Luneb. on Stocker l. i.  
c. 54. de Hernia Franc. 1601.

In order to reduce the Parts prolaps'd, he emptied the Intestines, with Aloephanginæ Pills one Dram, upon an empty Stomach, till with Fomentations, Clysters, &c. he repon'd the Parts to their Places. In the mean Time, he order'd 'em to drink Wine, medicated with Sanicle, Mugwort, *Comfry Roots*, twice a Day, observing a good Diet, *cum bona Ligatura & plumaciolis Ligatis*, with a *Rupture Plaister*.

Roderic. a Fonseca Conf. Med. Ven. 1628  
p. 103. Conf. 36. de Hernia Intestin.

The Indications in this, are to repone, and retain. The first is perform'd by evacuating the Intestines, which is best done with one Dram of Pill. Aggregativ. to be continu'd, with two Ounces of the following Electuary, till the Parts are re-plac'd.

Take *Comfry Roots* one Pound, beat and pulp through a Sieve, Honey as much, boil 'em to the Consistence of an Electuary, then add Safron one Dram, Cinamon two Drams, Mosch. four Grains, and every third Day, let him have three Drams of Elect. Latificans, and to drink four Ounces of a Decoction of Vulnerary Plants, for fifty Days. Thus I have restor'd one of forty seven Years, *post Sanationem caute vivat.* — The Parts being re-plac'd, Fomentations astringent are to be us'd, which with

with a Plaister *de pelle Arietina*, and a fit Truss, to remain in Bed forty or sixty Days, to foment every eight Days, and renew the Plaister.

Inwardly, Agglutinating Simples are to be us'd, as the Powder of *Rupture-wort* one Dram every Morning, washing it down with a Glass of Red Wine, a drying Diet, medicated Wines, Red, *parum bibat*.

*Joubert upon Guido's Surgery p. 563.*

Begins his Cure of *Ruptures* by emptying with purging Medicines, in order to facilitate the Reduction. During the whole Cure, he kept their Body open with Suppositories, Clysters, Cassia, Tamarinds, or Catholicon, order'd them to lie Quiet in Bed, and in all their Meats to use Carminatives, as Fennel, Coriander, Aniseeds, &c.

*Frederic Hoffman in his Institut. on Galen l. 3.  
c. 47. of an Iliac Passion.*

Teacheth us first to use Emollients, and then to try sharp Evacuations.

*Sanctorius 1602.*

Tells us, That hapning upon a *Ruptur'd* Patient, whose Belly was stufft with hard Fæces, in great Pain, he gave him first Ol. Amigd. d. ten Ounces, next Day order'd him a Clyster, of Oil and Hiera, whereupon the Fæces disolv'd

solv'd by the Oil, were brought away by Virtue of the Hiera.

*Abel Roscius ad Hildanum Obs. 81. Cent. 2.*

Order'd his *Ruptur'd* Patients Ol. Amigd. d. a large Quantity, for three or four Times to be drunk at Night, as also Laxative and Purging Draughts, besides Cataplasms, Fos's, Clysters, &c. with Elect. Benedict. Laxativ. and Hiera, by whose Help he began to void fetid indurated Fæces, so that he easily put up the Intestine in its Place.

*Franc. de leboe Silvius 1614, born at Hanover, afterwards Chief Physician for Practice at Amsterdam.*

Tells us, That when Part of the Intestines is forc'd without the Rings, as in a *Rupture*, and the same is roughly, or violently handl'd, an Inflammation and Gangrene are occasion'd; but if the Fæces can be forc'd downwards, so that the Intestines be emptied, the same may be easily reduc'd.

*Melchior Tribe in Misc. Cur. 1672 Obs. 96.*

Gives us an Instance of a *Ruptur'd* Iliac Patient cur'd by a Looseness.

Pitcairn's Elements of Medicine p. 175.

*Sed si Constat morbum oriri a fæcibus subsistenter tibus ob Copiam vel Lentorem, tunc Consularem Purgantia fortiora per os exhibere.*

*Jo. Fernelius, in his Works printed at Hanover 1610, fol. p. 73. pro Enterocèle in a compleat Rupture.*

The Patient is to keep his Bed twenty Days at least, to abstain from violent Motions, &c. to live soberly and temperately, and to keep an open Belly. — The Body is to be purg'd for fifteen or sixteen Days, or until the Parts be reduc'd. — Emollient and Carminative Clysters are proper, as of the four Emollients, Origani-  
num, Calamint, Wormwood, Chamomel, Melilot, Dill of each one Handful, Anise and Fennel-Seeds, Rosemary, of each an Ounce, with Oil of Rue, and Dill, make a Clyster.

His purging Potion was made of Rheubarb, Senna, and *Comfry* Roots, sweetn'd with Syrup of Roses. His Fomentation was of Althæa, Mallows, Violets, Pellitory of the Wall, Wormwood, Calamint, small Centaury, of each one Handful, Fennel-Seeds, Linseeds, Fenugreek, of each one Ounce, to be boil'd in Water, to be us'd as hot as he can suffer it, five or six Times a Day, with a Spunge, till the Parts be re-plac'd. After Reduction, the Part is to be fomented with Astringents, boil'd in Red rough Wine, and Smith's Forge-Water, for eight Days, to which

which may be added, a Lixive of Oak-Ashes, to be fomented twice a Day, which, with a Plaister and Trus, to be worn for two Months, will suffice without any other Remedies. —

The Patient after the fourteenth Day, may take a Drain of an Astringent Powder of Cres-ses, and Plantain-Seeds, Red Corál, Hæmatites, and Amber, with Cinamon, and four Times the Quantity of Sugar of Roses, every Morning fasting, drinking after it a Glass of Red-Wine, *ac usque dum perfecta sit curatio persequeris.*

*Marcus Aurelius Severinus*, in his *Chirurgia Trimembris*, p. 85, tells us, That a Surgeon stands in need of the Assistance of Medicines, as when he's about to re-place a prolaps'd Intestine, or *Omentum*. He must use Laxatives, and Purgatives, &c. *Sic & remittere volens Anum, aut Vulvam.*

*Bald. Timæus*, in his *Medical Cases*, p. 254  
Lypſ. 1662.

In a compleat *Rupture* of a Boy four Years old, he first emptied the Intestines, before he offer'd to reduce; and having plac'd him on his Back, with his Head declining, and his Legs up, he by little and little repon'd it, and to prevent its falling down, he order'd a *Rupture* Plaister, and a Trus well-fitted, and in order to Agglutinate and Consolidate, he gave a Decoction of *Rupture-wort*, sweetn'd with the Syrup of *Comfry*, and a little of an Electuary, made up of the Powder of *Comfry Roots*, *Rupture-wort*, Yarrow, &c. with Syrup of *Comfry*,

every Morning. —— This with an open Belly, was continued till the Cure was perfected. The Plaister was much the same with the rest of the *Rupture* Plaisters, see it there.

Pag. 122, of an Intestinal or Compleat *Rupture* in one of Sixty. —— Though it was not to be expected he cou'd restore him to perfect Health, yet by re-placing the Intestines, and retaining 'em in their proper Places, by a proper Truss, he enabl'd him to go about his ordinary Affairs, without Trouble or Danger, which he effected by emptying the Intestines, and then with *Arnoldus's* Plaister, call'd *de pelle Arietina*, and such a Truss as *Platerus* describes, he secur'd it from falling down. —— Bid him shun a bound Belly, avoid all flatulent Food, abstain from all Excess in Eating or Drinking, violent Motions of the Body, Vomiting, Coughing, Sneezing, and to lay his Hand on his Groin in Ejecting, lest the Parts shou'd prolapse. —— These Things being well observ'd, he felt no Inconveniencies from his *Rupture* for twenty Years he liv'd, and did every Thing readily, such an Age permits.

*Jo. Marquard Pract. Spiræ 1583.*

Who in a *Hernia Intestinalis*, gave Pills, Powders, Syrups, and Electuaries, where *Comfrey*, and *Solomon's Seal*, were the Chief Ingredients, for a Month or forty Days together, purging twice or thrice every Week, with Pil. Aloetic. Cinamon, Cloves, Ginger, and Cardamoms, added to the *Comfrey*, and *Solomon's Seal*,

*Seal*, were us'd with Sugar, q. s. in his Powders, and the very same with Nutmegs in his Syrup, as also in his Electuary. Fotus's were us'd with a Plaister and Trus. See *Guido Lanfranc*, who thus cur'd Children.

*Hieronymus Capivaccius de Enterocèle Nat.*

*Pat. 1587 Franc. 1594.*

Cur'd 'em much in the same Manner, and with a Fomentation, wherein *Comfrey* was the Chief, apply'd warm to the Part.

*Jo. Hieronymus Pulverinus Neapol. Prof. Celeberrimus Ven. 1600 de Hernia Intestinali p. 734.*

First soften the Fæces, then empty by Purging, and in order to reduce the Parts prolaps'd, whether Intestine or Caul, *Collocetur patiens supinus, ac capite depresso, retractisq; crurib. partes manu lèviter Ol. Inunct. tractentur*, if the hardened Fæces hinder the Reduction, then a Fotus of the four Anodynes with Marsh-mallows boil'd in Sheep's-Head Broth, besides a Clyster of Oil of Sweet-Almonds alone, or with the Broth of a Sheep's-Head, with a Decoction of Rue and Figs; all Excesses to be evited, all windy Meats, and whatever may occasion Sneezing, or Coughing, *potissimum autem curare Æger debet ut liquidam ac lenem habeat Alvam*, but most chiefly the Sick is to take Care he keep his Body *soluble* and *open*, and by Intervals to take of the Conserve of *Comfrey Roots*, with two Ounces of Aq. Plantag. or one Dram of the Powder of *Comfrey Roots*, with as much of Su-

gar of Roses, with the same Water, and outwardly a Plaister *de pelle Arietina*, with proper Trusses, fitted on Purpose.

*Lazarus Riverius* 1640 p. 164 *Lugd.* 1657.

The Fæces stuffing the Intestines, very much distend them; as in *Ruptures* it often falls out. The Indication of Cure in a compleat *Rupture*, is to re-place it, which is best done with Emollient Fomentations, Carminative Clysters, not omitting Purgatives, which when seasonably appointed, evacuate the Cause if Wind; the same Remedies that are us'd in windy Cholicks, Emollient Clysters, with Troches of Alhandal to empty 'em of their Fæces, and remove the Obstruction. If the *Rupture* proceed from an Inflammation of the Intestine, it's cur'd by a Fotus of cold Water. If Wind distend the Intestine, its discuss'd by a Fotus of Spirit of Wine: Examples of both are to be met with in our Observations, *Vide Obs.* 15. and 82. And tells us in another Place, that he had cur'd one who had been troubl'd with a compleat *Rupture* ten Years, by making him keep his Bed for a Month, with as little Motion as possible, keeping his Body free and open, with stew'd Prunes, and with the Powder of *Comfry*, with C C Ust. and a little fine Bole, one Dram every Morning, in a Draught of Chicken, or Cock Broth, observing a drying Diet, abstaining from Meats windy, or of hard Digestion, with a Plaister and Truss, of which *Comfry* was Chief.

Th. Bartholin. Cent. 1. Hist. Anat. 2 de Bubo-nocele Nat. 1616 printed Hafniæ 1663.

*Antequam Reponi Intestina commode possent futurisq; malis provideri auctor fui, ut discussis flatibus Intestina distendentibus expurgarentur fæces, putredinis fomes.*

Monsieur Lequin Paris 1665.

In his Treatise call'd Chirurgien Herniaire, tells us, That he seldom or never fail'd curing Children, and most of young People's *Ruptures*, with a proper Diet, Medicines, and above all, with a well-adapted Truss.

That neglecting to reduce *Ruptures* at the Beginning, was the Reason why they became so troublesome afterwards. That when the prolaps'd Gut, or Caul, are not entirely replac'd, and the Bandage, or Truss, happen to be apply'd, that Part which is without the Rings, is by the Force of the Truss squeez'd; hence Pain, Cholicks, and other Accidents arise, which are soon remedied by laying aside the Truss, and gently purging the Patient: For, says he, after the Patient is well purg'd, the Intestines are emptied, and the Gut and Caul are readily put up, within the Cavity, then it is they get immediate Ease, and that the Truss effectually answers the End.

That in *Ruptures* by Relaxation, where the Intestine is duly repon'd, and the Bandage

well-adapted, he affirms, That *Ruptur'd* Persons, without any other Help whatever, or without Distinction of Age, have been cur'd by him.

*Sydenham.*

That Excellent Practical Physician, tells us, as others had done, that the Iliac Passion arises from the inverted and preposterous Motion of the Intestines; whatever violently obstructs them, causes this Inversion, so that nothing can pass downward, and necessarily occasions this contrary Motion in them; as Fæces hardn'd, gross Wind pent up in a great Quantity, as if the Intestines were tied. The Constriction of them in a *Rupture*, and lastly, an Inflammation, stops the Passage. That with *Riverius's Mixture* of Sal. Absinth. one Scruple, Suc. Limon. one Spoonful, he hinder'd the contrary Motion, and that with Pil. Cochiæ one Dram, dissolv'd in Aq. Menthæ, he freed the Stomach and Intestines from these Humours. If a Cathartick in this Case be not strong enough, to force its way through the Canal of the Intestines, the Patient is rather hurt by it, while the Vomit and Pain are increas'd, by its ineffectual Motion. If the Patient be averse to a Medicine in a Liquid Form, or by his Inclination to vomit he can't retain it in his Stomach, Pills must of Necessity be us'd, among which Cochiæ ever pleas'd me above the rest, because they are sure to go the same Way they begin, both in this Case, and most others.

*Richard Wiseman Serj. Surg. p. 151.*

Tells us, as *Hildan* and other Authors before him, That Rest is of great Advantage in the Cure of *Ruptures*. — That *Ruptur'd* Persons should avoid all Manner of Exercise. That they should keep their Bodies soluble by Clysters, or Lenient Electuaries, and where Humours prevail, that they should be purg'd. — Afterwards he orders Agglutinatives Simple or Compound. — The Simples said by Authors to have a Specifick Virtue, are *Comfry Roots*, *Equisetum Sanicle*, *Solomon's Seal*, *Tomentil*, *Oismund-Royal*, *Rupture-wort*, &c. which may be given in Powder, in a Decoction of *Comfrj*-Roots, and may be drunk as Tea, juyc'd, or powder'd, and wash'd down with Red Wine. — Compounds are old Conserve of Red Roses and *Comfry Roots*.

*Etmuller p. 167.*

To repone the prolaps'd Intestine, &c. the Impediments, as *Flatus's*, and *Fæces*, are to be remov'd ; if the *Fæces* be hardn'd, Emollient Clysters are to be often injected, then with Purgatives, these which hinder the Reduction will be easily remov'd. For Cautions to be observ'd in reponing, he refers to *Panarolus's Pentecost*, 5 Obs. 49.

As to Internals, all Vulneraries, and Preparations of 'em belong, as Vulnerary Potions, Vulnerary Essences, &c. the Chief 'em all is *Comfry*.

*Comfry.* Thorough-Wax, *Solenander* tells us of some he knew cur'd by the Use of it.

For. 27. Obs. 15.

Roots of *Solomon's Seal*, and the distill'd Vulnerary Waters, medicated Wines of Vulneraries, *Rupture Essences*, and Essence of *Comfry*, are all good.

*Carlo Musitano de Herniis p. 100 to 104 fol.*  
*Geneva 1716.*

You are first to consider, whether Wind, or Fæces, hinder the Reduction. Wind is known when the whole Abdomen is stretch'd, or distended, and a Noise is heard in the Guts. Then take Diacinamon. Dianisum, Aq. Cin. Sem. Fen. Anisi, Carr. &c. the fame Seeds will do in Clysters, and Fotus's, and when the Intestine is re-plac'd, a good Truf, such as *Jo. Beguin* prescrib'd, will do; by it I have cur'd, and seen cur'd, many *Ruptur'd* People.

He extols his Plaister of *Comfry*, &c.

He dischargeth from all violent Motions, Excesses, &c. but above all, orders 'em to keep an open Belly.

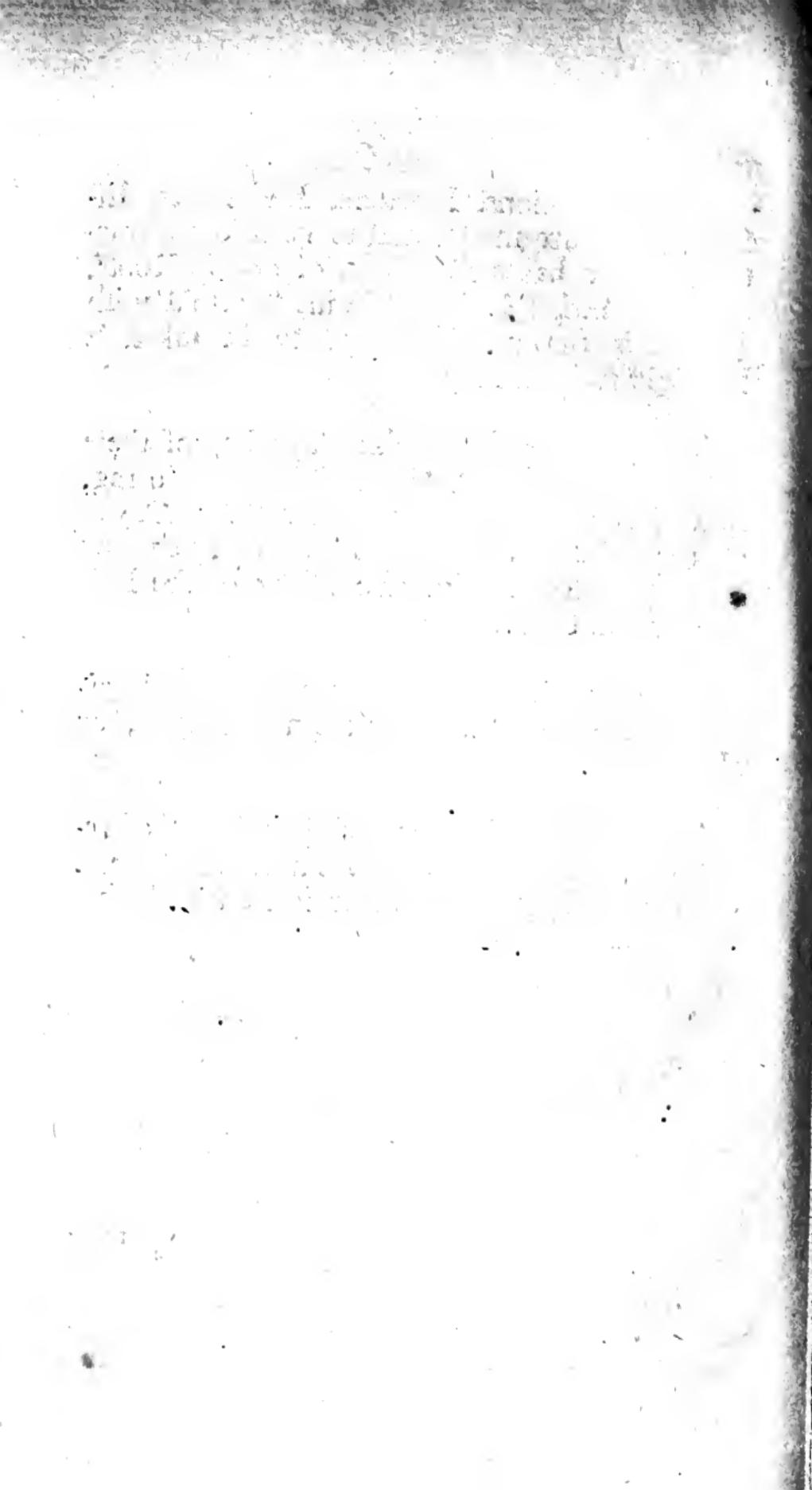
Internal Medicines are of great Use, but some are more effectual than others, as *Comfry*, Mouse-ear, Pilosella, Avens, Caryoph. Thorough-Wax, Perfoliata, *Rupture-wort*, *Hernia-ria*, &c.

Of these Potions, Powders, Electuaries, Essences, &c. are made, and to be us'd for thirty Days, he has a Decoction of *Comfrey Roots*, *Solomon's Seal*, &c. in red Wine sweetn'd with *Fernelius's Syrup of Comfrey*, to be taken a Draught twice a Day.

A Powder may be made, says he, of these Roots dry, and given every Morning fasting, in Chicken, or Cock Broth, for thirty Days; or the Essence of *Comfrey* may be given one Spoonful fasting, with two Drops of the Balsam of Sal. Gem.

These are the Medicines most frequently given in *Ruptures*, whether from a Breach, or Relaxation.

So much for that Part of their Secret of reponing by Medicines, how far it has been a Secret, the Impartial Reader is now best able to judge.





T H E  
M E T H O D S  
Of CURING  
R U P T U E R S  
B Y  
The *ANCIENTS, &c.*

**W**E are now to consider their Manner of securing the Parts repon'd, which they pretend to do effectually, by Way of a Caustick, known to themselves alone, and never used before by any. Now seeing their Modesty in this, as in their other Pretensions, has allowed them to boast of curing absolutely, and infallibly by Causticks, as if Causticks had never been essay'd before. I shall in what follows, shew that Causticks for securing, as well as purging, for facilitating

the

the Reduction, and contributing to the Cure of *Ruptures*, is of an early Date. That it has been the Practice of the *Greek* and *Arabian* Physicians, and of all other Practitioners in all Ages, and in all Nations, since their Time, even down to our own. But before I begin upon Causticks, I beg leave to take this Opportunity to say something of the Methods used by the Ancients in securing the Parts repon'd, and preventing their falling down after they had replaced them.

Were I not afraid of swelling this to too great a Bulk, I could easily prove, That the Learn'd and Wise Ancients, who very accurately described the Pathognomicks, and nicely distinguished the Species of Tumours, perform'd greater Cures on their *Ruptur'd* Patients, by the Knife and the Fire, than any has been since their Days, but by those who followed their Methods. They have given us clear and distinct Accounts of all the different Species of *Ruptures*, with their true Distinctions, and Cures, as is plain from their Writings, and particularly of that Excellent Practical Physician *Paulus Aegineta*, who, as Dr. F. tells us, in several Points, is fuller and more particular than *Celsus*, who has given us the most perfect Account of Surgery, as it stood in the Time of the Ancients, and his own. He's very full and exact in describing the several Sorts of *Ruptures*, particularly the Intestinal. He gives the different Causes and Symptoms of it, as it proceeds from a *Rupture*, or the Distention of the *Peritonaeum*, by which the Gut (Part)

(Part of the *Ileon*) which lies upon the Production of this Membrane, may easily fall down, either into the Groin, or *Scrotum*, and therefore in some Cases it's necessary to make an Incision in order to re-place the Gut. — The whole Operation is here very accurately and circumstantially explain'd, much more so than it is even in *Celsus*. A Way of Practice, which the Ancients we see were well acquainted with, Rosset in his *Cæsarei Partus Assertio Historiologica Paris 1590 p. 185*, brings an Allegorical Proof of his, from the Chirurgical Cures of Ruptures, perform'd by them. *Consistamus ergo in Ramicibus illis amplissimis quorum curatio difficillima quidem est, sed tamen olim tam frequens (de qua maiores exacte scripserunt) ut inde apparet non valde aut saltem non mortifere periculosa fuisse. Hodic tamen prorsus desita est eo opinor quod non sanitatis (cum is affectus sit tolerabilis) & multo minus necessitatis causa (ut nostra hæc sectio) sed eleganter potius ac decori studio quondam subiretur, attamen longius, latius & periculosius quam hic sectionem duci oportebat.*

*Peritonæi nimirum magnam illam sectionem, ab antiquis usurpatam & nuper renovatam: In praesens vero ob Chirurgorum Ignorantiam raram (quod multis exitio est) nimirum dum in Hernia Intestinali, Intestinum aliquod quasi captivum detinetur, ita ut etiam volvulo laborent, & morti sint proximi nisi cum subita dilatatione Rupti Peritonæi secentur. Franc. Rossetus de Partu Cæs. sect. 3. cap. 3.*

When in a *Hernia Inguinalis*, that Part of the Intestine which is forc'd without the Rings, happens to be distended by the Fæces detain'd, and hardn'd therein; and when those who endeavour to reduce it, do by their frequent rude handling bruise the Part already tumified, which stagnates the Blood and Spirits therein, and induces an Inflammation, not only in that Part of the Intestine without the Rings, but even in the Rings (of the Muscles) 'emselfes, and the *Obliquus Externus* not yielding as the other, because more strongly tendinous, contracts; so intercepts the Course of Blood and Spirits, and if not immediately reliev'd, causeth a Mortification and Death.

If the Operation be perform'd before the Parts be affected with a Gangrene, it's generally with Success; but when the Colour of the Parts is chang'd, when the Patient feels no more Pain, it's a shrewd Sign there's a Mortification, and consequently the Operation uselesse.

The Learn'd and Curious *Rosset*, gives us three Instances, where the Operation was perform'd after the Manner of the Ancients, as describ'd by *Celsus*.

The First was done by *Florentius Vallensis*, in a Publick Hospital, in the Presence of *Will. Clarenfac*, a famous Physician, *John Arsentius*, an Apothecary, and *Ambrose Nigri*, an Experienc'd Surgeon.

There

There hapn'd, says he, to be a Beggar that was *Ruptur'd* to a woeful and desperate Degree, the Intestines distended with Fæces and Flatus, so that they could by no Means be reduc'd, being attended with a Strangulation, a sure Symptom of imminent Danger. This old Man, who might be reckon'd Learn'd for one of his Degree, considering his Age, a first Rate Man, Famous 'mongst those Brethren of his, who made it their Busines to go about curing of *Ruptures*, and a perfect *Machaon* in Cases of the *Stone*, did *Gratis* restore this dying Man from the Grave, and happily inspire him with new Life. — He really talk'd with me about that necessary Operation, not without the Appearance of a good deal of Learning. He assur'd me he had frequently perform'd it before that Time, and never once with any ill Success, being call'd in the Nick of Time, when the Incision was necessary; for when any one is *Ruptur'd* on a sudden, it requires as speedy a Relief, as our Births already mention'd, so that you have scarce as much leisure Time allow'd you as to call a Surgeon of the Neighbourhood (if there be one so near, who knows how to perform it) but that when he comes, he shall find the Patient in a dying Condition; and this being the true and real Circumstance of the Matter, wou'd it not be apt to deter the most skilful Persons, though now-a-days it restrains not the most imprudent Race of Men.

His Son trod his Father's Footsteps, and by Profession followed *Celsus* his above mention'd Method of Surgery in *Ruptures*, and where they had not been in the Hands of those, who had try'd to reduce the imprison'd Intestine by Fomentations, and rough handling, he happily succeeded.

These Artists made their Incision lower, and consequently more dangerous than that, where we make our *Cesarean* Incisions, and, with the utmost Care and Caution, cut the Muscles and *Peritonæum*, from thence down to the very Place where the Intestine was strangl'd, which they instantly reliev'd, and restor'd, as they did Life to this poor Man, which was then just upon the Wing, and ready to depart. They afterwards took the common Way of stitching the Belly up again, and made a perfect Cure.

The Second was perform'd by *Maupasias* and *Carломagnus*, two Eminent Surgeons at *Blois*, by the Advice of *Alexis Gaudinus* a Physician.

The Patient miserably tormented by the strangled Intestine distended with Fæces and Flatus, was in a most desperate Condition. A Fever, Hic-cup, and Iliac Passion, vomiting his very Excrements, a feeble Pulse, and Strength almost gone, shew'd little Hopes of Recovery; and although Fomentations, and other Means to reduce were try'd, they prov'd in vain. *Maupasias* having plac'd his Patient as he us'd to do in these Cafes, and mark'd the Place,

made

made an Incision the Breadth of four Fingers above the *Os. Pubis*, down to the very Bone it self, carefully avoiding to hurt the Intestines, &c. Having reach'd the Cavity, he with the utmost Care, and a gentle Hand, reduc'd the Intestines, and Caul, to their Places; but because the latter was partly corrupted, they cut off the Bulk of two Hens Eggs, the rest being ty'd with a Thread, they repon'd with the Intestines, which were of a blackish Colour, by being extremely squeez'd and compress'd; they stitch'd up the Wound in five different Places.

Three Days after this, the Wound began to suppurate, and the Excrements came forth with the *Pus*, a plain Sign the Gut was (as they believ'd) gangren'd. He continu'd voiding Excrements at his Wound for above six Weeks, and for four Months after, a yellowish Stuff, like the Infusion of Rheubarb; proper Injections were thrown into this wounded Inguen, as well as detergent agglutinating Clysters were into the Anus, so that both Parts were heal'd.

He liv'd sound and free from that Ail full nine Years at *Blois*, without any Trusf, and often strain'd in playing at the Hand-Ball. He after that married twice, had Children in both, and not the least Vestige or Mark of his former Ail, except a small Bradupepsia, by the Loss of Part of the Caul.

This hapn'd at *Blois* in *May 1559*, and was perform'd upon the Person of one *Francis*, a Shoemaker there, aged Thirty, which *Rupture* he got by playing at Foot-Ball.

itself I used to ribband on him to cover

The Third was perform'd upon *Henry Monceaux*, a School-Master at *Blois*, in great Agony with an old *Rupture*, that had fallen suddenly down; an Inflammation, Fever, Vomiting of Excrements, and Strength almost exhausted by intolerable Pain, was in cold Sweats, and look'd upon as a dead Man; yet at the Desire of his Wife and Friends, was cut in the same Manner as the other, stitch'd up and cur'd. He liv'd a long Time free from that and other Ails, was hearty and cheerful.

*Rosset* from these two Histories makes useful Remarks, particularly that in Herniary Sections the Cicatrix ought to be of a confirm'd Hardness, to be able to secure the Parts from ever falling down again.

In these two Cures, says he, very much alike, the Causes were different.

In the School-Master, the *Hernia* was larger than the Shoe-Maker's, so must the Breach of the *Peritoneum* have been, because the Bulk was much larger. No Putrifaction accompanied the School-Master's, wherefore it sooner cicatriz'd, though softer, more pliable, and ready to reduce. The Constriction in the one, was much slighter than the other, consequently the Cicatrix not so firm, because the Wound was sooner heal'd up, than in the other, which turning Ulcerous, continu'd long running. — In the Shoe-Maker, the Ulcer lasted so long in his Groin, that it left a most confirm'd Hardness,

ness, as it were Cartilaginous, and so effectually stopt the Meatus, or Passage, that it was scarce possible for any Thing to fall out there.

*N. B.* Ulcers long, putrid (even though less) become harder than the Cicatrices of simple and momentany Wounds, and always constringe the Parts about it more firmly than they, which daily Experience teacheth, especially where muscular fleshly Fibres are over the Periosts, and connected with the said Periosts by a common Cicatrix; there indeed the Adhesion of the Parts with the Bones is not much weaker than the pertinent Insertion of the Ligaments at the Articulations. — Moreover, that Part of the Groin, that was cut in the Shoe-Maker, and corroborated with a very strong, callous Eschar, seems near the same as those cut by *Rupture* Curers, with the Loss of their Testicles.

By these judicious Remarks, *Rosset* shews, he had as true, and just Notions of the right Method of securing the Parts repon'd, as any before, or since his Time ever had; for it's most certainly true, that the greater the Constriction is, the firmer the Part, for which Reason the Learn'd and Wise Ancients, effectually secur'd their *Ruptur'd* Patients, with the Actual Cautery; "No inconsiderable, says Serjeant *Bernard*, however terrible a Branch of Surgery it may seem, though *Costaeus*, *Fienus*, and *Severinus* have written so amply concerning it; yet from one single Aphorism, it's demonstrable, that *Hippocrates* knew its true Use as well as any that have since suc-

" ceded him, not to mention how frequent it  
 " is in the Writings of all the rest of the An-  
 " cients, and used in many Cases (I do not  
 " doubt but with admirable Success) wherein  
 " it is wholly neglected, or not understood by  
 " us." —

What, *Severinus de Medicina Efficaci cap. 62.*  
 has said of a Cicatrice in Chap. 62. merits our  
 serious Consideration. *Cicatrix igitur dicta qua-*  
*si occæcatrix, i. e. plaqæ velatrix, tegumentum Ul-*  
*ceris ex summa carne Cute simile, i. e. validius*  
*exitata, densata, & omnino Calli modo dura per*  
*naturam & medicamenta redditâ; ita Galen l. 3.*  
*Meth. c. 15. & ejusdem subintelligendam autem*  
*cicatricem esse vel Ulceris erosi spontaneive vel se-*  
*cti & utriusq; vel cavi vel cavitate experti, &c.*

P. 152. *Ex Inducta Cicatrice per Ignem corpo-*  
*ra mollia & Inania, ut Omentum & Intestina, cohi-*  
*bentur, and the same in a luxated Humerus*  
*ex Laxante pituita Cauteris ad alam adactis re-*  
*stituere suam in sedem nititur Hippocrates cap.*  
*11. & 12. Item Paulus lib. c. 42. Aetius l. 12.*  
*c. 25. & Albucasis l. 1. c. 26.*

*Ita Exomphalum reprimi licere docuit Celsus*  
*l. 7. c. 14. at Bubonocelem, says he, non Effica-*  
*ciori ratione tollimus.*

The same *Severinus cap. 6. p. 178. Cicatrix*  
*firma Elapsus partium durarum & molium cohi-*  
*bet, i. e. ex articulationes & Intestinorum in Her-*  
*niis sedisq; excessus repellit.*

It's certain the Ancients did Wonders with the Actual Cautery, in this, and other Diseases; and that once Searing in *Ruptures* did not serve 'em, but that they induc'd several Crusts, until they found the Eschar thick enough.

*Claudinus* us'd the Actual Cautery in this Manner, brought on several Crusts to make the Skin shrink, and the Constriction the stronger.

*Albucasis l. 2. c. 47.* cauteriz'd after this Manner; when the Parts were replac'd, with an Iron shap'd like a Half-Moon, the several Crusts were made to correct the Laxity of the Part, that the Skin by such a Shrinking, might grow callous and firm, the Patient lying Quiet on his Back in Bed. Thus *Isaac as Hip.* had done, forbid his Patients all Motion, even plying their Arms, while the Cicatrix was a forming.

*Arnoldus de Villa Nova, Theodoric, Guido, Montagnana, Gattinaria, Gabr. Ferrarius* and many others, did the same.

It's true, says *Severinus*, he who useth the Actual Cautery, ought to have a solid Judgment, with a certain Foresight, which is not so easily to be describ'd. These Gifts of the Mind are from Nature, and improv'd and preserv'd by long Practice and Use.

This same great Man tells us, in Chap. 6. That Nature and Art are the two Sovereign Instruments, which serve to drive away Diseases, the great Variety of which has produced a great Variety of Medicines. They are either slight, or midling, or stubborn, or such as are incurable. — The slight ones are to be cur'd by the bare Course of Diet. — The midling require Medicines, but Surgery is reserv'd for the last, and has been esteem'd by the Learn'd in all Ages, the most Effectual Instrument of Physick. — For when Course of Diet, and Pharmacy fall short (whether suggested by Experience or Reason which can't deceive) *Surgery* forthwith appears for Relief, by Means of Artful Cutting and Cauterizing, with which, for their Efficacy, nothing is to be compar'd. — It's evident then, that this Surgery is absolutely Effectual, and that it ever was reckon'd so by the Learn'd and Wise Ancients, as *Aretæus*, *Oribasius*, *Paul*, *Etius*, *Celsus*, *Aurelianuſ*, *Horatianuſ*, and afterwards by the *Arabians*, of whom *Albuſasis* is Chief, *Isaac*, *Haly-Abbas*, *Rhasis* and others, but above all, by *Hippocrates*, who in his third Book of Articulations, says, The Physician ought to know what is most Effectual in each Disease, and apply it properly; and in his Aphorisms, he declares what is appropriated, when he says, that extream Diseases require extream Remedies. I have imprinted that Decree of *Hippocrates*, Aph. 6. sect. 8. so deep in my Mind, that I have it always at my Tongue's End, That no Disease ought to be deem'd incurable, on

on which Fire hath not been yet try'd, so great is the Confidence I place in that Remedy.

And seeing, says he, this Excellent and Powerful Remedy has been so well recommended by the greatest Men of the Profession, and acknowledg'd as such by the ablest Practitioners, I can't comprehend by what Mischief they have neglected it, and that it's now no more in Use; and that I may not seem to be the only Plaintiff in this Case, I shall name a few of the fam'd and renown'd Authors who have done so before me.—*Rhasis in Lib. De Cauteribus*, says, That the *Ancients* cur'd several Diseases by Cauterizing, which we cannot now do, whence I conclude, that it's with no small Prejudice neglected.—*L. Sotus in his Com. on Hip. de loc. in hom. tex. 31.* says, That for a long Time Cauterizing had been out of Use, without knowing what cou'd seduce Physicians to do so.—*Mercurialis in his Com. on Lib. de Morb. N°. 6.* says, That the Ancient Physicians had recourse to Cauterizing in all Obstinate Diseases, proceeding from Fituite, after having in vain essay'd all other Remedies; and that it was not to be expected from one small Ulcer, but several, which shews, that the *Ancients* were much bolder in using the Knife and Fire, than we are, and so cur'd more dangerous Diseases.—*Hollerius* a Person Learn'd, and every Way accomplish'd, well acquainted with *Hippocrates's* Doctrine, and the most resolute for restoring the Legitimate Surgery, tells us, That the most insupportable Head-Achs which resist all other Remedies,

medies, are curable by the free Use of the Knife and the Fire. That Purgatives, Cupping, Topical Medicines, &c. have been, and are us'd in vain, and afterwards cur'd by trepanning, and Cauterizing, as also in Epilepsies, Mania's, Melancholy, Vertigo's, &c.—

*Heurnius in Lib. De Meth. &c. Cap. De Pyrot.* It's a Wonder, says he, that in this Age they pass by this Remedy, that's so Cheap, which they think good for nothing, because it is so. It's the Unhappiness of this Iron Age, that it can be sweetn'd by nothing but Gold.—

*Gustavinius in Lib. De Med. Elect. C. 16.* gives the Praise to the *Ancients*, in that they Cauteriz'd Hydropicks, Pleuriticks, and Empyema-ticks, and also with great Advantage open'd the Temporal Arteries in Diseases of the Head, and other Parts.—*Prosper Alpinus in Medicina Ægypt. lib. 2. cap. 12.* complains, they had lost the Use of the most Excellent, and most Effectual of all Remedies, which does Wonders in Diseases, said to be Incurable, and was in great Esteem 'mongst the *Ancients*, to the great Prejudice of Art, and many diseas'd Persons.

*Fienus, Lib. De Cauteribus cap. 1. & lib. 5. cap. 11.* says much in the Praise of this Excellent Remedy, clears it up, defends, enlargeth, and cultivates it every Way, as the greatest of all Remedies, with a great many more, see *cap. 15. Pyrotech. Chir.* which he thus concludes with an uncommon Fervour and Warmth.

*Has ob res omnes igitur quando tam magna, tamq; gravia Igni sic neglecto, tot & tanta mortali bus detrimenta, quot & quanta cognoscuntur ab eodem Abusu eveniunt. Sustineamus nos qui & Chirurgicæ rei & hominum saluti bene cupimus, Cassam abire tantam ab Ustione venientem frugem patiamur quoq; tantas abusiones longo jam sae culo persistere: Quin vero non operam damus, non omnes nervos intendimus quo Generosa Herculæa Chirurgia morbos omnes domans & superans: Venit, ut credo Cælitus hec medendi Ratio: Quando in hac sola Miseri Mortales inveniunt desperatam sub aliis medelis omnibus opem.*

If some useful Hints, can't plead Excuse for this Digression, I shall not presume to do it, but acknowledge it Foreign to the subject, and shall pass from the Actual, to the Potential Cauteries, after I have only re-minded the Curious of the great Noise the Moxa made. It was first brought over from *India* to *Europe*, for the Cure of the Gout, Rheumatism, Sciatica, &c. see *Bishhoff*, who first publish'd its Virtues in a curious Treatise.—*Ericus Mauritius Misc. Cur. Germ. Dec. 1. Anb. Obs. 218.* Sir *William Temple*, &c.

Cleyer and others, tell us, that it's prepar'd from an Herb not much unlike our Artemisia, or Mugwort, and was so highly extoll'd in *Germany*, that *Purmanus* in his *Chir. Curiosa*, says, he himself gave twelve Crowns for half an Ounce of it, and found that in Pains of the Gout, and Ischiatica, that had not been of long Continuance,

Continuance, it took 'em away immediately ; and though it has lost its Reputation, it was more from the silly Applications of those, who us'd it, not knowing where to place it, and how to manage it, than otherwife.

The *Indians*, chiefly the Inhabitants of *Japan* and *China*, form between their Fingers a Pyramid, about the Bigness of half a Nutmeg, narrow at Top, and broad at Bottom, that it may stand fast upon the Skin ; this being plac'd where it ought to be, they set it on Fire, with a Wax-Candle, which quickly burns, and smokes, (but never Flames) till it is consum'd to Ashes, which being blown away, leaves a yellow Spot, the Pain is inconsiderable, and continues not a Quarter of a Minute, and then the Pain vanisheth also. Apply to the yellow Spot a little bruis'd Garlick, and Diachylum, let it continue eight or nine Hours, then take it of, and cut the Blister if there is one, if not, lay the rough Side of a Plantain-Leaf to the burn'd Place, to keep the Wound open, for the smooth Side certainly heals it.

Now, if so much Advantage can be reap'd from such a trifling Cautery, what may be expected from the Actual Cautery, were we as well skill'd and dextrous in the Application of it, as the Bold and Wise *Ancients* were.



O/F

# CAUSTICKS.

Us'd by the

*ANCIENT S,*

In the CURE of

# R U P T U E R S.

*EONIDES*, made frequent Use of Causticks, as we may see in many Places in *Aetius*, who in his *Medici Græci Contractæ ex veteribus Medicinæ Testrabs.* or Epitome of the Greek Physicians has often mention'd

'em. Tom. 4. Serm. 2. cap. 11. *Quæ si nihil effecerint ad ea quæ callosa corpuscula erodere;*

*ac*

*ac consumere possunt transeundum est, &c. in cap.*  
xiii. from **Leonides.**

*Aetius, cap. 22. de Hernia Aquosa.*

*Aliud egregie tollens Thymos & Carnem Excre-  
scensem in pudendis.* The safest Way of cu-  
ring Ruptures, is by Surgery and Ustion,  
providing the Artist be skill'd.

*Leonides.*

The Scrotum may be burnt with a Me-  
decine, and when the Humour, &c. is con-  
sum'd, a Cicatrix may be induc'd to confirm  
the Part, for which End the Ashes of the  
Roots of *Brasica, Stirpium Brasice aridorum,*  
*Cinis, inter Caustica Intelligitur.* Plin. p. l. 620.  
burnt to a Cinder are most effectual, so often  
apply'd, and repeated untill the Ustion is  
perfected. The Plaister shou'd be oblong,  
such as will suit the Part, as in large Tu-  
mours about four Inches long, and one in  
breadth; and in less, about two Inches in  
length, and the breadth of ones little Finger.  
So soon as the Coat is discover'd by the  
Ustion, it's to be separated with the Scalpell,  
and the Humour being evacuated, the neigh-  
bouring Parts are to be eat down and con-  
sum'd.

*Boyle, Med. Experiment.*

Has a Medicine, for a stubborn Ulcer, of  
the Ashes of the Stalks on which red Cole-  
wort

wort grows, to be often shifted. — Instead of the Rad. Brassicæ, Corrosives, call'd Septicks, may be us'd.

*Celsus. A. D. 29. ad 60. 150. before Galen. cap. 21. de omenti Curatione:*

Tells us, that the Custom of the Ancients in the Cure of an Hernia-Omentalis, was *Illinere adurentibus Medicamentis donec emoriatur & excidat.* So that some tied what was out, till it fell off, others cut it off, others with an actual Cautery sear'd it, and others us'd burning Medicines, call'd Causticks. *Si omentum super vinculum illinitur Medicamentis, que sic exedunt, ne Erodant omnia Græci vocant.*

*Archigenes 137 Years before Christ.*

Of whom *Aetius* has recorded several things in cap. 50. he mentions several Causticks us'd by him. *Crusta Indumentia*, as Arsenic, Quicklime, &c. *ad Carbunculos, Carnis Excrescencias, pudendorum nomas, &c.*

### *Leonid.*

*Aetius*, p. 324. has a Caustick of Calx. Viv. and Arsenic for gangren'd and other putrified Parts, Fistula's, &c. all old Ulcers and proud Flesh. — *Urentia*, says he, *vero. Exedentiaq; fiunt ex calce & auripigmento, cum fact. Vini urunt & faciunt crustam.*

*Oribasius*

*Oribasius* 265. before Christ.

A Grecian, Physician to *Julius Cæsar* under whom and *Jovian* he flourish'd, for his Learning esteem'd a God. cap. 23. *de pastillis* from *Herodotus*, mentions Causticks and burning Medicines, Arsenic and Quicklime, &c. form'd into Pastills, and us'd with a strong Lixive in Excrescences and old Ulcers, &c. and gives us vast Variety of 'em, some weaker, some stronger, that every Practitioner may chuse for himself.

*Rufus Ephesus* 112 Years before Christ.

*Ætius* in cap. 51. has several Medicines from him, *qua Crustam Inurunt*. It's safe to burn the Ail to the Roots with Cauteries, or by applying Causticks burnt to a Crust, amongst which he mentions Calx Viva, Arsenick, and Atramentum, Sutor. which we call Vitriol, &c.

*Ætius* has great Store of Causticks from the Ancients, see cap. 52. of eating and burning Medicinss for Callosities, Excrescencies, cancerous Ulcers and Struma's, which we are to corrode and eradicate, as also for Sciatica's and other Ails, by way of Cauteries or Causticks.

*Galen* us'd Lixives of Oak-Ashes, and Calx of Shells, &c. 17. *Equit Afini fum. suc.* Shells, (says Sir John Floyer) have Alixivial Salt

Salt in them like Lime, burnt Alum and Lime have a burning Stipticity, and are thereby also very Corrosive. The fresh Lixive of any Wood, especially Oak or Ash Bark, is a smart Corrosive.

*Arætæus* in ch. 13. *de Elephantiasi* has an excellent Deterfive of burnt Alum, *nitri sulphur Vivi fæc. Vini combusti* and Vine Ashes &c. and purging with *Veratrum album*. *Si cuncta alia medicamenta Viribus Inferiora sint, id unicum Remedium est.* Near a Kin to this, is the *Cauterium ad Columellas Demosthenis. Calc. Viv. 2 Drams, fæc. vini Ust. 2 Drams, lixivio ad mellis spissitudinem trito et bis aut ter Ebullire finite donec cogatur*, stop it up close and when dry, wet it with fresh Lixive.

*Rusticana & duriora natura, fortioribus medicamentis opus habent, molliora debilioribus,* says *Ætius.* p. 359.

*Ætius Serm. 42. cap. 13.* mentions the Arabian Ustion, the manner of doing it is describ'd, *l. 2. c. 37.* with Goats Dung, for the Cure of the Sciatick, &c. the Invention whereof is attributed to *Antyllus.*

*Prosper Alpinus*, who practis'd three Years in *Ægypt*, tells us, that they form'd a Pyramid of Linen Rags, set fire to its sharp Point, so let it burn to its broad End, by which a Crust was induc'd, and this, says he was the Way of Cauterizing, familiar to the Ancients, which they generally perform'd with

dry'd Goat's Dung, or Mushrooms, and repeated it three Times upon the same Crust. The Eschar when well treated, fell off in two Weeks after, by which they not only cur'd stubborn and inveterate Ails, as Gout, Sciatica, &c. but also Navel *Ruptures*, and a *Hernia Inquinalis*, see *Severinus De Med. Efficaci.* c. 58. who happily practis'd it several Times, particularly upon *Alexander Janathase a Neapolitan*, and several others.

He, who wou'd fully know the Diligence of the Ancients, and their Ways of administering Causticks, may consult *Costeus lib. 2. of Remedies from Fire*, where that Subject is treated at large.

The vast Variety of Matter, whereof Causticks are made, viz. from Vegetables, Minerals and Animals, occasion'd an Infinity of particular Causticks, invented in the several Ages, by the Industry of Men, according to their various Fancies, and the Ails they were to cure: *Severinus* has gone to the Bottom of this Matter, in his *Pyrotech. Chirurg.*

*Severinus* in Chap. 5. of Incisions in desperate Diseases, tells us, That in an Iliac Passion, join'd with a *Hernia*, or rather caus'd by the *Rupture*, the Sign whereof is the vomiting of the Fæces, &c. when the Ileon is slipt into the *Scrotum*, the only Way of Cure is by Incision. *Duret* upon *Hollerius cap. De Hernia*, says, If there be any Cure, it's instantly to make an Incision on the *Vinculum Inquinis* (that is, the Ring

Ring is to be enlarg'd, and the Gut reduc'd.) A doubtful Mean is to be prefer'd to a certain and infallible Death. *Præstat opitulari cum dubia salute, quam certa cum desperatione hominem relinquere, &c.* so far *Duretus*, see *Parey lib. 7. cap. 15.* who approves of Incision.

Whoever wants to be satisfied of the great Advantages of large Incisions in this, and many other Cases, may consult the indefatigable *Severinus, De Medicina Efficaci, de Incision. cap. i. 2. &c.* who, founded on the best Authorities, has in a few Words convey'd to us their Sentiments, of the Necessity and Benefit of large Incisions in *Ruptures*, and in Fractures of the Cranium, even where the Scalp is entire, see *Jac. Carp. Jo. Baptista Carcan. Petr. Passer. &c.* as also in Nodes, *Exostos, Gummata, &c.* as *Hippocrates* has it *Lib. 2. De Med. 23. 25.* where he orders a large Incision to be made in such Cases, on Purpose to have the Cranium rasp'd, even to the second Table. In all Cases, says he, when certain Signs discover to our Senses the Bone to be diseas'd, there's no Scruple to be made about Incision, but the Skin, or Scalp, that covers the Evil, is to be laid open, with a pointed Scalpell, and not in a straight Line only, but Crucial, and that as large as to discover all the Evil, and that it may be conveniently dress'd.

*Hippocrates* in his Book *De Locis in Hom. Num. 23.* makes his Incision to the very Bone in Inflammations, and Defluxions on the Eyes; and in his Book *D: Visu,* he's of the same Opinion.

nion. The Incision call'd Crucial, in Form of an X, is most Ancient in such Diseases, beginning at the Occiput four Fingers from the Ears, to the Bone, as *Soranus the Ephesian* has told us, in his Introduction to Medicine cap. 22. of which *Cælius Aurelianus* has also spoken from the Authority of the most Eminent Physicians, in his Book of Chronic Diseases cap. 4. —— *Celsus* in lib. 7. cap. 7. mentions several Incisions on the Scalp, us'd by several Nations against Defluxions, Ophthalmies, &c. which render Men miserable all their Life, see the rest there cap. 2.

*Severinus* in the same Chap. tells us, That after the Example of these great Personages, he was the first at *Naples*, who ventur'd to make a large Incision for an Ophthalmia of three Years standing, the Man blind all the Time, the Eye-Brows prodigiously thick and swell'd, he laid the Sinciput open, the Length of four Fingers, i. e. four Inches, nor did the Patient feel the least Inconveniency from the Wound, though he cut to the Bone. He us'd Fomentations upon the poor Eyes, half putrified, and with Cerat. Basil. he cur'd it, to the Admiration of many. All he has said upon Incisions, and indeed upon every other Head, is Excellent; wherefore I recommend him to the curious Reader, and shall conclude with his own Words. — *Neque enim simplex & parva sectio probatur qualis nostris vulgo Medentibus fieri consuevit, qui parte & trepide saepe etiam perfunctorie i. e. quo confecisse rem apparent hanc eandem absolvunt.* — *Verum tamen aqua debet esse sectio mala,*

malo, sicut *Pax* peccato. And *Celsus lib. 2. c. 20. De Intestini Curatione*, with great Reason tells us, *Quo major plaga sit, & plus creare carnis possit.*

*Cyprianus* tells us how he cur'd a Gunsmith in *Franequer*, of a *Hernia Intestinalis*, by a large Incision. This Man, says he, could re-pone the Intestine when he pleas'd, and often went without his Trus. At a Time when he was out of Town, it fell down, and by its Weight dilated the *Peritonæum* more and more, and having catch'd Cold, he could not, when he return'd, reduce it as he had us'd to do, because the Annulary Proces was straitned by the Inflammation; and that Part without the Ring, was too much tumified, to be re-plac'd. The Symptoms increas'd, he vomited his Excrements. When he examin'd the Parts affe-cted, he discovered some Spots on the *Scrotum*, certain Signs of a beginning Gangrene. He told his Scholars, that these Symptoms pro-ceeded from the strangulated Intestine, and that there was no Remedy but the Operation.

He laid open the *Scrotum*, and Production of the *Peritonæum*, according to its whole Length, whereupon both the great and small Guts appear'd, the *Cæcum*, with a great Part of the Colon, and yet a greater Part of the Ile-on presented. Their Colour was alter'd by being long strangl'd. With his Stillet and For-cep's, guided by his Finger (the best Condu-ctor in such Cases) he enlarg'd the Aperture, that so without any Impediment, he could ea-

sily reduce the Intestines. But an unforeseen Hinderance occurr'd, the Colon adher'd to the Rings, which he was forc'd to separate with his Bistoury, and though this retarded the Operation, and render'd it more difficult, yet he perform'd it with that Success, that the Intestines were scarce sooner reduc'd, and the Parts stitch'd, than the Patient immediately found Ease, his Vomiting ceas'd, and he rested well that Night, his Fever abated, he daily recovered, and was soon cur'd, though fifty Years Old.

From this we may conclude, that large Incisions are of great Use in such Cases. I durst maintain, that the most Part of Patients are retarded by the over Cautiousness of Surgeons, which only increase Pain; and there are few Cases, where large Incisions may not be made, and profitably.

He advis'd him to wear a Truss, though he was in no Danger of a Relapse, the Cicatrix being firm enough to make a sufficient Resistance. *N. B.* He could by no Means endure a Truss before the Operation, because of the Adherence.

The common Cause of a *Rupture*, is a Weakness of the Tendons of the Abdominal Muscles, which when relax'd, easily admit a Separation of their Fibres. The *Peritoneum*, because alone, can't by its own Strength sustain the Weight of the Intestines, nor resist their Impulse, so is by little and little distended,

ed, and falls into the *Scrotum*, by the Intertices of their tendinous Fibres, which, with the Gut, forms the *Hernia*.

In Children this Operation is not allow'd, because they may be easily cur'd by a Truss.

Vast Numbers are troubl'd with *Ruptures* in *France*, *Spain* and *Italy*, by the continued Use of Oil, and in *Franequer*, by the Use of Butter, which is much the same with Oil and Butter-Milk.

A third Part of its Inhabitants are troubl'd with *Ruptures*, by over-moistning, lubrifying, and relaxing the Parts of their Body.

The Method of Curing *Ruptures* by Incision, says *Purmanus*, in his *Chirurgia Curiosa*, p. 160, is that which was practis'd by *Peter de Franco*. The Famous and Excellent Operator at *Leyden*, *Schmaltzius*, was so expert at it, that you could scarce perceive how he did it, without a diligent Circumspection; yea, I verily believe he could have cut fifteen Patients in an Hour's Time, if he had had so many. When I was there, he cut but six in an Hour, all which succeeded, but then he took more Time than ordinary. His Method therefore I shall describe as the best, and quickest, that I ever saw, and which I practise.

The Patient being well purg'd, two Days before, and a Clyster given him in the Morning, four Hours before the Operation, shave

the Part, and lay the Patient with his Head lower than his Legs, the easier to repone the Gut, and let some-body press them with both Hands, that they may not fall down again into the *Scrotum*, then with the three fore-most Fingers of your Left-Hand, take hold of the Skin, where the Guts us'd to fall outwards, over the Rings, pull it up as much as you can, and make an Incision in Length, of the Breadth of two Fingers, directly upon the Place where the Process of the *Peritonaeum* is, and where the Gut useth to fall out forwards. The Incision being made, put your two fore-most Fingers into the Wound, and separate the Process from the adjoining fibrous and nervous Bodies. That you don't hurt the Spermatick Vessels with your Needle, or Tie, which though it be somewhat troublesome, is presently perform'd; then thrust your Needle with a Gold Thread, a little stronger than ordinary through the Process, not too hard, or too slack, and then tie it on a double Knot: The best Way is to pull the Process upwards out of the Wound, and then you may see how to perform it sooner and better. If the *Peritonaeum* is very much dilacerated, sow up those Lips with the rest, the Thread may in Time be cut off, and the Wound by Degrees heal'd and cicatriz'd.

*De Franco* in his *Traite De Hernie Intestinale & Des Remedes par Chirurgie*. Chap. 16. p. 30. tells us, That this Way of Incision was his own Invention, which to Men of found Sense and Judgment, says he, will seem strange, and the more, that in the Space of twelve or fourteen

fourteen Years, I have cut above two hundred Persons with Success, and also several of our Profession follow this Method now, at this Time, believing it not so hazardous, as *sur le penil*, because there's less Danger of a Flux of Blood.

*N. B.* That *De Franco* after the Operation, and tying the Knot, cauteriz'd (as he calls it) the Part with scalding Oil of Roses, or Olive, with Cotton dipt in the boilling Oil, with which the Part incided was dress'd, for three or four Times, and, says he, *Je M'en suis fort bien trouye depuis que J'ay commence d'ainsi faire, Il y a environ douze ans,* and I have always found it do well these twelve Years, since I first practis'd it. Before that, I cauteriz'd it with a hot Iron, of the Shape I here present you with, as most of our Profession do still, and I say it does very well, because it corroborates, and fortifies the Part.

One Thing you must take Care of after the Operation, that the Bandage be not too tight, lest it induce an Inflammation, by attracting the Humours to that Part, which is ever dangerous, if not timeously notic'd. — Another Way of the Author's own Invention, perform'd without the Loss of the Testicle, see *De Franco* pag. 54.

*Hildan Cent 6. Obs. 73.*

Tells us, That the Operation is not to be perform'd but in extreme Necessity, all other Things

Things having been first try'd, but where the Viscera are found and not manifestly las'd, the following Example shews it may.—*An. 1618,* I was desir'd, says he, to perform the Operation upon Mr. *John Nadler*, who had a compleat *Rupture*, the Parts were by no Means to be kept up, not by the best Trusses that could be contriv'd. I dissuaded him from being cut, all I was able, aged Seventy One, but being fully bent upon it, and rather than not be cut, he was resolv'd to put himself in the Hands of a Quack, by whom lest he should be ill us'd, I could no longer (for the Friendship that had been formerly betwixt us) refuse him; wherefore after due Preparation of his Body, for several Days, I cut him, which succeeded so well, that he soon recover'd, and surviv'd the Operation several Years.—He was naturally Robust, and for his Age, of a good Habit of Body.

Whoever practise this Operation of Cutting, in order to reduce the Gut, and Cure the *Rupture*, ought diligently to inquire into the State of the Intestine, if, being as it were strangl'd, it be gangren'd; for then, though the Operation be never so artfully perform'd, the Patient most certainly dies next Day, and it may be thought the Surgeon has kill'd him, of which *Slegelius* made some Remarks in *France*, see *Velchius Obs. 49.*

*Anno 1699 and 1700.*

I have often been Eye-Witness to this Operation in the *Hotel Dieu*, which I must here own to the Honour of the Performers, was done with all the Dexterity and Skill Art requires; but my Curiosity not satisfy'd with this alone, mov'd me to a constant Attendance at each Dressing, on Purpose to know the good or ill Success, and I do declare, unless perform'd on a very bad Habit of Body, where a Tendency towards a Mortification of the Intestine, occasion'd by the rough Handlings, and unskilful Tampering of Surgeons, who had had 'em in Hands before they came into the Hospital, the Operation (generally speaking) had its wish'd for Effect.

C H A P.

## C H A P. I.

*Of Vitriol and its Oil.**Their Caustick.*

**L**EAVING all other Causticks, I shall come to the Consideration of their's, Oil of Vitriol, so much boasted off, as if none had ever heard of its being us'd as such, before them, and that it maynt be slightly pass'd over, I shall beg Leave to examine what it is, and how made, and if ever us'd by any before 'em.

*Georg. Agricola, Glaucæ Nat. 1494. diligentissimus Naturæ scrutator Germaniæ plinius qui merito palmam refert inter eos qui de re metallica Scripserunt.* A German Physician in his Book, *De natura fossilium, Basil. 1546.* Fol. p. 113. tells that

*Atramentum sutorium, or Vitriol.*

Is made of a certain Juice that corrodes the Lapis Pyrites, of which Artists not only make Vitriol, but also Alum, for, says he, *magnam inter se cognitionem habent.* By the Latins it was call'd, *Atramentum*, by the Greeks *καλχεύθη* quod ex ære quodam modo efflorescat nam Pyrites ærosus qui & Chalcitis dicitur, soryos & Melantheriaæ quam etiam Atramentum metallicum

*cum vocant parens est et Effector,* — p. 219.  
*Superior ætas atramento futorio Vitrioli nomen*  
*imposuit.* — p. 2. 20. Its use in Medicine, a most  
 vehement Astringent, and heals extremely,  
 wherefore it stops Bleeding, eats Excrencies.  
 Especially its Oil, and does so burn, as to  
 bring on Crusts like a hot Iron, or *Ad C—y.*  
*de Calcanho.* See Pliny's Nat. Hist. l. 34.  
 c. 12.

*Raymundus Lullius, born in Majorca,*  
*A. C. 1235.*

Reviv'd his Mr. *Arnold de villa nova's*  
*Chymy,* was of a wonderful Genius, to  
 whom we owe the Invention of *Sp. Vini.*  
 He often mentions Oil of Vitriol as a strong  
 Caustick.

*Euonymi Theatri Thesaurus Med.* a fictitious  
 Name. See *Conrad Gesner. publ. 1554.*

There we have an Account of a Quack,  
 who us'd Oil of Vitriol for all Diseases, and  
 there we have as exact a Description of the  
 Proces of making this Oil, as in any Author  
 since.

Pag. 378. There we have the Story of another old Dutch Quack, who pretended to cure all Diseases with Oil of Vitriol, when he was to sweat his Patients he gave some Drops of it with Theriac, &c.

This

This cunning Quack call'd this Oil; the Philosopher's Stone. The way of making it he had learn'd from a certain Goldsmith, as we found amongst his Papers, after his Death.

### *Bulcasis.*

Gives us the whole Process of Oil of Vitriol, *unica ejus guttula*; says he, *inbaustum vini admixtum ad extingendum sitim peræstatem; in Mss. reperi.*

### *Lib. 3. de Med. preparatione Nicolaus Massit.*

In his Book *de morbo Neapolitano*; says, that the Oil of Vitriol can't be taken inwardly; touch it with your Tongue, and its like a hot Iron, it consumes the largest Warts, and as *Cardan* says, *ad præscindendos Cancros & corrupta membra.* The Oil of Vitriol is a wonderful Caustick, says *Zacutus Lusitanus.*

The Oil of Vitriol, as also the Spirit, is such a Caustick, that we use it instead of an actual Cautery. In gangreen'd Cases, if the Knife be rub'd over with it, says *Brassavola Ferrarensis:*

If one or two Drops of the Oil of Vitriol be put upon any Part, it cauterizes it.

*Angelus*

*Angelus Sala*

Publish'd a Caustick, where Oil of Vitriol is the chief Ingredient, but says he, *Immanem dolorem Excitat.* It stirs up an outrageous Pain, the Part only touch'd with a Feather dipt in it.

*Le Febure*

Says the acid Spirit and corrosive Oil of Vitriol, is call'd an Oil, tho' improperly, since it is neither inflammable nor unctuous, but the manner of Expression of Writers must be followed, from whom this Liquor had its first Denomination, being too harsh and violent for inward Remedies.

Filtrate the Liquor remaining in the Retort, after the Distillation of the said Spirit, through Glass beaten to Powder, for otherwise it wou'd corrode, all other Substances being altogether Corrosive, put it in a double Glass Bottle, or Viol, and stop it with a glass Stople very close.

The Learn'd and Accurate *Jac. Barnerus* in his *Chym.* p. 311. And so as we said, the Oil of Vitriol is thicker, because it has less Phlegm. Such acid Oils are improperly so call'd, wou'd be more rightly nam'd concentrated Spirits. The Spirit has a corroding Power. The Oil, as is said, is a concentrated Spirit, *neque enim Conditiones oleorum habet.* Its a Salt dissolv'd.

P. 269. The Oil of Vitriol excites a notable Heat, and is such a Caustick, that it burns a Pen and Wood like Sulphur.

M. T. in his *Chemia Rationalis*, says, That the Oil of Vitriol is a Caustick, and therefore not to be us'd inwardly.

*Q—y* says, That the Oil of Vitriol is extremely Caustick, and therefore is to be kept under a Wax, or Glass-Stople, for a Cork it will burn to a Cinder.

*Angelus Sala*, in his Anatomy of Vitriol, tells us, That it has a manifest fiery corrosive Quality. In Surgery it's most Excellent for eating down proud Flesh, and removing putrid Flesh in Gangreens.—One Drop of it from a Goose-Quill, will root out Warts, and other Callosities, yet not without great Pain.

Wherefore its not to be rashly us'd, but by those of Skill, who both know how to temper and manage it, and defend the Parts from Inflammations, and other Symptoms. It cures creeping Ulcers to a Miracle.

The Oil and Spirit of Vitriol differ only on Account of greater or lesser Acidity, for the Oil is drawn off with an extreme Force, whence it's thick and obscure, the Spirit has more Phlegm, so weaker.—The Oil of Vitriol then is a concentrated Spirit.—The Spirit of Vitriol an Oil resolv'd. Take Oil of Vitriol.

ol, and Water, distil 'em, and you have an Oil in Form of a Spirit; rectify this Spirit, and drive off all the Phlegm, and you'll have an acid corrosive Oil of Vitriol, see *Etmuller* p. 573. For other Ways of making this Oil, see *Libavius Lib. 2. Alch. Tract. 2. Cib. Mender. De Vitriol c. 9. Heurnius l. 1. p. 74.*

*Riolan* does not approve of the inward Use of the Oil of Vitriol; First, Because all strong Acids are Enemies to the Nerves and nervous Parts: Secondly, Because it's a very great Caustick; and that it wou'd require a larger Quantity of Wine to dilute it in, than Febricitants could bear.

If one or two Drops be rubb'd upon a well suppurated Tumour, it breaks. — *Aq. dissolutum valde Cicatricem inducit. Plat. De Vitriol. p. 719: 841 — 959.*

*Franc. Peccet: p. 1187. Erodentia Valentissima.*

The Chief are Oil of Sulphur, and Oil of Vitriol, both strong Causticks, which are to be us'd with great Caution, especially in nervous Parts.

*Theophrast. Paracels.*

His true Oil of Vitriol is drawn from *English Vitr.* or *Coperas*, well calcin'd in a Reverberatory Furnace, urging the Fire to the

fourth and last Degree, so you have his Oil, which is wonderfully Corroitive, says Maetz.

*Charras*, After rectifying the Spirit, leaves at the Bottom, the heavy Spirit call'd Oil of Vitriol.

*Zwelfer*, That which remains in the Glass-Body, after distilling the Spirit of Vitriol, is the most acid Part, and is call'd the Oil (tho' improperly) and in the Bottom of the Retort, remains the Cap. Mort. call'd Colcothar, out of which Sal Vitrioli, Rabell's Drops, Styptic Water, and Ens Veneris are made.

*Lemery*, That which remains in the Body, is the most acid Part of the Vitriol.—And tells us, That having put two Thirds of German Vitriol, dry'd in a Retort, into a Furnace, drew of the Phlegm, fitted an empty Receiver to the Retort, and by a great Fire continu'd three Days and Nights, he had an acid Spirit, as Uswal. When the Vessels were cold, he wonder'd to find nothing in the Receiver, but a Mass of Salt, or congeal'd Oil of Vitriol; which Salt, says he, was so exceeding Caustick, and burning, that if he touch'd the least Part of it with his Finger, it scalded intolerably, so that he was fain to plunge his Hand into cold Water. It continued to fume, and when a little of it was thrown into Water, it made the same hissing Noise that a Fire-Coal thrown into Water wou'd do, and heated the same much more than common Oil of Vitriol;

after

after keeping it six Months, it resolv'd into a Liquor, which he us'd as Oil of Vitriol.

*Castellus M. D. Rom. in his Calcanthin, &c.*

Tells us, That of one hundred and fifty Apothecaries at *Rome*, none wanted Oil of Vitriol in their Shops. — That the great and mighty Virtues ascrib'd to it by *Raymundus Menderus*, gave Quacks and others a Handle to use it as an Universal Medicine in all Diseases, *Vid. pag. 67, 80, 81, 96.*

P. 19. *Castellus* says, That the Oil of Vitriol, or Sulphur, in Gangrenes, are as Effectual by their Burning, as Fire it self, for which End I have seen it us'd at *Rome* by Surgeons and others. *Taceo usum ad maligna penis Gallica Ulcera astringendique vim.*

P. 5. That the Oil of Vitriol falls to the Bottom, when thrown into Water. It is most acid, and *Cauſtick*. By it the Stomach and Guts may be exulcerated, p. 6.

P. 9. It is a very strong *Cauſtick*, and exceeding hot.

P. 11. When I speak of that, which is given inwardly, I don't mean the black Oil, which is a strong *Cauſtick*. *Mercatus* was afraid of the Oil of Vitriol in Ulcers of the Jaws, for it cauterizeth wherever it toucheth.

P. 33. The black Oil of Vitriol is most acrid, and is so extremely hot, that the Hand can't bear it, and so strong a Caustick, that it burns the very Pens and Straw that's dipt into it.

*Camillus Gorus M. D. De Calcanbo, ejusque Oleo. Romæ ibid. 40.* That the Oil of Vitriol burns, and is a strong *Caustick*, and that it possesseth the same Virtues, that crude Vitriol it self does, in a stronger Degree; for, says he, the Oil of Vitriol is nothing else, than the very same Substance of Vitriol, with its Qualities more perfect. As Vitriol is a powerful Astringent, healer and drier, it's of a Sep-tick Quality, Ergo, says he, *Ol. magis intensas habebit has Qualitates*; therefore the Oil has these Qualities more intense, because less Phlegm.

Dr. Read, If you wou'd use moist *Causticks*, have recourse to Oil of Vitriol, Oil of Sulphur, &c. — *Causticks*, as *Lap. Infernal*, the white *Caustick*, &c. are so well known to all who practise Surgery, that I need not trouble you with their Preparations. — *Mere sublimat* mix'd with Oil of Vitriol calcin'd to a Redness, is an Excellent Escharotick. In the Cure of a *Herpes Exedens*, if the Lips be touch'd with *Aq. fortis*, Oil of Vitriol, or Sulphur, they'll soon heal.

Woodal's Surgery, pag. 214. tells us, That with Oil of Vitriol, the straight and narrow Orifices of Fistulous Ulcers are to be enlarg'd, Callosities

Callosities remov'd, and that nothing disposeth Inveterate Ulcers to heal so much, as touching 'em with Oil of Vitriol, with an arm'd Probe dipt therein. — P. 213. says, The Ancients prepar'd Vitriol, for the Oil by calcining it till it was red, and this was us'd by 'em, when they intended to have the sharpest Oil of Vitriol. — With this Oil over-grown Gums may be gently touch'd, with a little *Mel Ros.* and though it cures rotten Gums, be wary and cautious in touching the Teeth, for it will consume 'em. — Touch any Ulcerations in the Mouth but once, with this Oil, and they'll heal very fast.

*Purmannus* in his *Chirurgia Curiosa*, lib. 2. c. 12. says, A Bubonocele may be cur'd with a Plaister of the *Magnes Arsenicalis*; but if this should not have its desir'd Effect, then a careful Excoriation is the safest and speediest Remedy.

Instead of Actual Cauteries, says he, Potential Cauteries, or Corrosives, as *Butyr. Antimonii, Sp. Nitri, Aq. fortis, Oil of Vitriol, &c.* may be us'd. — In *Condylomata, Varices, & Verucæ in pudendis Mulier.* Cauſticks are often ſuccesful. — I have, says he, taken 'em away by applying Butter of Antimony, without the Use of any other Medicine, but a Lixive to blunt the Pain, caus'd by the Corroſive. — And though nothing will eradicate 'em but Corrosives; and that Surgeons uſe *Sp. Nitri. Oil of Vitriol, Sulph. &c.* yet I have had ſuch good Succeſs with Butter of Antimony in theſe

Cases, that I prefer it before all others, and do recommend it.

The Beneficent Boyl, tells us, That the Oil of Vitriol is one of the most Corrosive Menstruums yet known, which will fret several Metals, Minerals, and a great Number and Variety of Animal and Vegetable Bodies to pieces.

Sir Isaac Newton p. 356. 360. says, Since Oil of Sulphur, per Campanam, is of the same Nature with Oil of Vitriol, may it not be infer'd, That Sulphur is also a Mixture of Volatile and fix'd Parts, so strongly cohering by Attraction, as to ascend together by Sublimation.

Le-Mort, That eight Pounds of English Vitriol will yield thirty Ounces of Oil. — That Oils of Salts are fluid Salts concentrated, i. e. depriv'd of most of their Phlegm. — That this Oil is a Caustick, and fit to dissolve Metals. — That Oil of Sulphur may be rectified in the same Manner as the Oil of Vitriol, and fit for the same Uses, and that they are both Corrosive and Cathæreticks.

Rulandi Centuriae 10. p. 600. Cur. 82. tells us, That he cur'd one Kirschner of a Hydrocele, or Hernia Aquosa, with the Oil of Sulphur, with which the whole Ramex was laid over Morning and Night, and over it apply'd a Bag with hot Ashes.

P. 649. Cur. 66. That he cur'd a Sarcocœle, Hernia Carnosa, or Fleshy Rupture, which shou'd

shou'd have been cut, had they followed the Advice propos'd; but I, says he, easily cur'd it without Incision, & *Curo in multis aliis*, with a Purgative Potion, for some Time, and after sufficient Purging, a Bath, wherein three Ounces of Tartar has been boil'd, and before, and after Bathing, I anointed him with my Oil of Sulphur. A good Diet of easy Digestion, Wine diluted, little Motion, much Rest in Bed, and by these the Tumour daily decreas'd, and in four Weeks vanished.

*Hildan p. 914. 915.* Gives us Instances of the dreadful Effects of the Injudicious Application of Mercurials, &c. as well as of Chymical Preparations inwardly, of one who was suffocated, and died by a Quack's rubbing too much Mercury on him; of two or three others, by strong Vomits of *Merc. Vitæ*; of one who died by an Antimonial Vomit; of another who got a *Hernia Ventralis*, by a strong Antimonial Vomit a Quack gave him, p. 918. That when he was at *Worms*, he was consulted by one *Peter Daling*, about a *Hernia Intestinalis*, he got about four Years before that, by a Vomit a Quack had given him, which burst him the very Day he took it, with a vast many others, see p. 915.

*Hildan, De Abuso Medicam. Escharoticorum*, tells us, That Escharoticks being of Minerals, cannot be apply'd safely to External Ails, but by Experienc'd and Skill'd Physicians and Surgeons; and that he could give several Instances of their Abuse; the First is of a Person, who

boasted so much of a Powder *ad Cranium curandum*; see his Treatise of Gangrene, and Sphaelulus. — The other Instance is of an Apothecary, otherwise skill'd in his Busines, whose Name he conceals, for the Intimacy had been between them. —

About eleven Years ago, says he, a certain Quack, came to *Cologne*, pretending to cure all Sorts of *Ruptures*, without Castration, or Hurting the Spermatick Vessels. Great was the Concourse of People to him; yet he had cur'd none, for all he had been there a whole Year, as I was well inform'd by People of Credit there. — He begun his Cure by Exulcerating the Skin with their *Caufstick*, a certain Chymical Oil, which I conceal, because of its dreadful Effects, having corroded the Parts into the very *Os Pubis*, with such dreadful and excruciating Pains, scarce to be express'd, as the Patient *Dom. Schuanius*, who felt and suffer'd 'em, told me, that he wou'd rather suffer Death, than run the Risk of bearing 'em again. — A certain Nobleman, about sixteen Years ago, was tortur'd at *Leyden*, in the same Manner, in vain, by the same Quack, though he still has the same troublesome *Rupture*.

So much I thought Dr. *Doringius*, to say concerning the Abuse of Chymical Medicines, not with any Design to condemn, or reject 'em, but rather to give a few Examples to young Physicians and Surgeons, to shew how prudently, and circumspectly they ought to use Chymicals, and that the Sick may not trust too much

much to chattering Quacks. — Nor can I see how any can securely use Chymical Medicines, unless they know their Preparations. — Therefore when any Quack, Jew or Monk, who knows no more of making Chymicals, than he does of the Nature of Diseases, or other Circumstances, I wish that Kings and Princes, the Fathers of their People, wou'd *ex Officio*, suppress such Quacks, and unskilful Meddlers, who play with the *Corium Humanum*, and expose Mankind to such, and so many Hazards. They ought not to be permitted in a well constituted Common-wealth, nor do I think Men ought to be allowed to suffer themselves to be practis'd upon by such; for it's not *Bull-hides*, but *Men's*, that are the Objects of the Magistrates Care, who are to see to their Health and Welfare.

P. 776. 777. Septicks, as Arsenic, Sandarac, Aquafortis, *Oil of Vitriol*, and the like, rashly apply'd, sometimes induce a Gangrene and Sphacelus; wherefore I wou'd admonish all Surgeons, that they don't use such Septicks, but with the utmost Prudence and Moderation: And Warmly in pag. 790. *De Gangraena*, inveighs against them, and with *Paracelsus*, says, That *Cauſticks* of Arſenic, Sublimat. &c. are *Artes Carnificum*; and therefore advifeth when Potential Cauteries are to be us'd, that they be ſuch as are made of the strongest Li-xive of Vine-Afhes and Quicklime, for theſe operate immediately, and with no great Pain; for it often does its work in leſs than an Hour; whereas Arſenic, and theſe, are always attend-

ed

ed with dreadful Symptoms. Agreeable to these Sentiments, are those of our most celebrated Authors and Practitioners in all Ages.

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## C H A P. II.

*Of Causticks from Vegetables, Minerals, &c.  
Simple and Compound, first us'd by the  
Ancients, continu'd and improv'd by the  
Moderns.*

*Aetius, Tom. 4. Serm. 2.*

**H**AS a very good Caustick of *Calx Viv.* and which he says, *Citra Mordacitatem Cru-  
stas inducit.*

*Paul Lib. 6.* taught how to use *Calx Viv.* or unslack'd Lime, with black Soap; and *Magi-  
gius* says, If the above be made of Lime-Stone new burnt, it will burn the Skin, and Flesh, in an Hour.—*Jo Schyronius,* Take new burnt unslack'd Lime one Ounce, soft Soap q. s. form them to the Consistence of a solid Ointment.

*Paul Lib. 4. Cap. 35.* Take Quick-Lime one Ounce, Dregs of Wine burnt two Drams, strong Lixive of Ashes boil'd up to the Thickness of Honey, to be preserved in a Vial close stop'd.—*Lib. 5. De Compos. Med.* There's another of *Andromachus apud Galenm,* where Quick-

*Quick-Lime* is Chief. — *Oribasius* has many. — So has *Ruffus Ephesus*. — *Aretaeus*. — *Alexander Trallianus*, particularly against the Achores; and all the other Ancients, and Moderns, have us'd *Caulsticks*, where *Quick-Lime*, and Lixives have been the Chief.

The Ashes of Plants, and Calx of Lime, agree in their Saltneſſ. In the *Calx Viva*, or unſlack'd Lime, there's a burning Corroſive Acid, with a Saltneſſ. — It has a Stiptick burning Corroſive Taste, says *Sir John Floyer*, and an Oil is obſerv'd to sweat out of it in Burning. This Oily Acid unites with the Earth, into a Salt, and gives the Stipticity to burnt Lime.

*Quick-Lime*, says the Honourable and Curious *Boyl*, differs greatly, not only with the Degree of its Calcination and Freshneſſ, but also according to the various Nature of the Stones, and other Bodies calcin'd to make it.

*Sir John Floyer*, Fix'd Salts in Soap-Aſhes, by being united in a ſolid Form, act all together, and ſo corrode.

*Mattiolius* on *Dioscorides*, says, That *Quick-Lime* is a Kind of Cinder, *Sed tenuioris ſubſtantiae quam quæ ex Lignis fit*. The fix'd Salts of Vegetables, are leſs or more Efficacious, according to the Plants, or Trees of which they are made; Aſhes of Vines are good, ſo are thoſe of Bean-Stalks, Juniper-Fig, Wild-Fig,

Ec.

Sc. Oak more Acid than these, and the Bark of Ash yet more smart and acid than that.—  
*Fraxini Potaschen Belgis unde saponem faciunt.*

*Zwelfer*, In his Appendix p. 70. of an Excellent *Caustick* from the Ashes of Ash-Bark; this is to be remark'd, That the Ashes newly burnt (for it loseth in a few Days its Force) wet with a little Spittle, and wrapt up in a little Bit of Rag, apply'd, makes Issues dextrously. I have often seen it apply'd under the Jaw, cure the Tooth-Ach, but it leaves a Cicatrix.

### *The Vulgar Caustick of the Shops,*

Take strong Lixive that's us'd in making Soap, boil it in a Pan to a Hardness, when cold, cut it in small Pieces, and keep it in a Phial, close stopt for Use.

### *A strong Caustick.*

Take Russian Potash three Pounds, unslack'd Lime two Pounds, boil 'em in a sufficient Quantity of Water, to the Thickness of Honey. When cool, form it in small Bits, put it up in a Phial close stopt for Use.

*Ambrose Parey* says, That of the Ashes of Oak alone, he has made a strong *Caustick*, which powerfully and suddenly perform'd its Work.

As to *Capitellum*, there's something *Paul* calls  
~~καπιτέλλον~~ *Lixivium Saponarium*, which is  
thus made.

Take the first Running of the Water made  
with the Calx and Ashes, of which black Soap  
is made, q. s. Quick-Lime one Pound, Ashes  
of Oak three Pounds, Water, q. s. if you add  
a fourth Part of Sublimate, or Vitriol to the  
Mass, boil'd up, it will prove a quick and  
strong *Caustick*, but with greater Pain, where-  
fore you may add *Opium*.

### *Fienus's Caustick.*

Take Quick-Lime six Pounds, Ashes of the  
Vine twelve Pounds, with boiling Water, make  
a Lixive, which he calls *Lixivium Saponis*. It  
will prove the stronger, if you keep the Lime  
in the Middle, and not mix it with the whole  
Ashes, pour on your Water, till it grow Taste-  
leſſ; evaporate and boil up your *Caustick*.

### *The Caustick call'd Bannister's.*

Take of Quick-Lime new burnt, Potash. q. s.  
on these pour as much Water as will take the  
Strength out of both, which you'll soon know  
by the Water's being Tasteleſſ. To this Water  
add fresh Lime and Ashes, as before; do thus  
eight Times; then take of this *Capitellum* two  
Pounds, Vitriol four Ounces, Quick-Lime q.  
v. boil 'em to the Consistence of an Ointment,  
or a Dryneſſ, and keep it close for Use.

Or

## Or THUS,

Take Quick-Lime one Pound, burn the same in a Charcoal Fire, three or four Hours, put it in fine Powder, into two Pounds of the *Capitellum* above, or *Lixivium Saponis*, boil them together in a Brass-Pan, until they be thick; cut 'em into what Form you please, stop 'em up close for Use. — When you are to use it, wet one Side of it with a little Spittle, and lay it on the Place, and in one Hour it will pierce. Be sure to keep it from the Air close stopt.

*Hugo Baubinus* has a *Cauſtick* the very same with that of *Bannister's*, as *Wecker* tells. See *Wecker* and *Tagaultius Instit. Chir.* l. 6. c. 11. p. 637.

*Fernelius* tells us of a *Cauſtick* that will penetrate in a Quarter of an Hour, thus made, *Recipe*, Burnt Vitriol two Ounces, Sal Armon. one Ounce, Cal. Viv. Ashes of Wine-Dregs three Ounces, pour upon 'em, in Powder, Lixive of Fig-Tree Ashes, boil to a Stone, and keep it close for Use.

*Marianus* has in his Surgery, prais'd a *Cauſtick* from *Jo. De Vigo*; *Recipe*, Lixiv. Sap. Vitriol Rom. one Ounce, Coque in Vase a neo ad Aq. Consumpt. in fundo remanens collige.

*Heurnius in Meth. ad Prax.* has a strong one of Soap-Lees, boil'd to a Stone.

Parey has one of Quick-Lime and Soap-Lees, with Nitre and Sal Armo. boil'd to a proper Consistence, which he mightily praises, and which he says in half an Hour's Time will do its Work, without Pain, and attributes the same Virtues to it, he does to his Angelical Powder.

*The Magisterial Potential Caustick.*

Boil the *Capitellum* of black Soap in a brazen Vessel, and one Ounce of Quick-Lime in the said *Capitellum*, then take Sal Armoniac one Ounce, boil all to the Thickness of Honey, add Opium one Ounce, stop it up close for Use.

*Bartholomaeus Maggius*, in his Cure of Gun-Shot Wounds, has a Secret for cutting the Skin, and Flesh, without Pain, for perforating Abscesses, &c. to which Septick he adds Human Fat a fifth Part, and Opium; and in pag. 68. he says, he has often remov'd great Corruptions with it.

This Septick of *Maggius*, as he calls it (is a *Caustick*) and made of the first Water whereof Soap is made, call'd Magistral, which is to be so long boil'd in a brass Vessel, till it be of the Consistence of Honey, without any other Mixture, though some add Vitriol, &c. It's to be kept in a Phial, well stopt, otherwise it wou'd turn Liquid, and lose its Force. Like to this of *Maggius* is that of *Crucius*.

Recipe,

Recipe, *Capitelli De Lixivio Saponis q. s.* boil it to the Hardness of a Stone, add Human Fat, or that of Veal, a third Part, Opium a fourth Part. This, says he, is wonderful, & retunditur ab ipsa adipe.

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## C H A P. III.

### *Of the Use of Causticks.*

**A**S to the Use of Causticks, see Casp. Bartholine his *Syntagma Med. Chirurg. De Cauteriiis, præsertim potestate agentibus, seu Ruptoriis Hafniæ 1523*, in the Cure of an Enterocèle; they are of admirable Use and Efficacy. Take Care of the Spermatick Vessels. — In an Exomphalos, especially when its from the Omentum, *Celsus* taught, l. 17. c. 14. how to use a Cautery. What's without the Ligature, after tying, he's for burning it, either with an Actual or Potential Cautery.

*Mercurialis* in his Book *De Morbis Puerorum*, says, That the Gut being re-plac'd, the Part is burnt, and when the Eschar is fallen, it's heal'd up; for it makes on that Place such a hard Cicatrix, that it retains the Intestine, and resists its Impulse, so ever after keeps up the Gut.

Thus

Thus an Inguinal *Hernia* is cur'd by Interception, with a firm Cicatrix; which Cure is deliver'd down to us by the wise Ancients, 'mongst whom are *Albucasis l. i. c. 46.* *Hally-abbas 9. pr. c. 3.* *Damascen. l. 7. c. ib.* *Paul l. 6. 66.* who with innumerable others, made their *Cicatrix* with an Actual Cautery; but now-a-days we do it by a Potential Cautery, call'd a *Caustick*, no edge Tool to be play'd with.

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## C H A P. IV.

*Of what's to be consider'd before we apply Causticks, when they are, and what after.*

1st, THE Body, before the Caustick is apply'd, must be prepar'd, and well purg'd, lest Humours be attracted, whence Inflammations, Fevers, and other dismal and troublesome Symptoms arise. — *Galen, Avicenna, and others, advise the Body to be well purg'd; if a Plethora, Bleeding, as in 11 Meth.*

2dly, A proper Diet both before and when it is apply'd.

3dly, The Place to be mark'd with Ink.

Q

4thly,

4thly, The Part to be defended with a Plaster, &c.

5thly, When the *Caustick* is apply'd, to watch the Time narrowly, because some *Causticks* do their Work in half, others in the third Part of an Hour, some a whole, others two, three, four Hours, &c.

6thly, If it don't go deep enough the first Time, repeat the *Caustick* again.

7thly, If the Pain be intolerable, add a little *Opium*, and Lenitives round it: This is call'd the *Velvet Caustick*, insinuated by some *Scioli* to be a late Invention, though it can be easily made appear, to have been in Use 'mongst the earliest *Greeks*:

The Crust, or *Eschar*, is nothing else, properly speaking, but burnt Flesh, which is to be remov'd as soon as you can; that is, you are to procure its falling, as soon as possible; and in order to make fure Work, it will be necessary a fresh *Caustick* be apply'd, with the Cautions above; and the longer you keep the Ulcer running, the firmer your *Cicatrix*, consequently, the Cure complete, without Fear of any Relapse; providing the Patient be young, or of a clean, thin, and otherwise good Habit of Body.

In so far as Mr. R——y has manag'd the *Caustick*, and repeated it, this Way (though it

it be only the common Way all Surgeons use) he has done right, which may be a good Hint to others, to excite their Industry that Way, in renewing the *Cauſtick*, till they have a ſufficient *Cicatrix*; ſee *Guido Tract.* 6. *Doct.* 11. *de Curat. Rupturæ* p. 248.

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## C H A P. V.

### *How to procure the Fall of the Eschar.*

**I**N order to the Falling of the Eschar, ſeveral Things are to be confider'd, 1ſt, The Heat of the Part is to be preferv'd. 2dly, The *Spiritus Infusus* nouriſh'd, and the Part to be strengthn'd. 3dly, The Crust is to be often moistn'd, if dry. 4thly, The Part to be clean'd at every Dressing. *Hippocrates* uſ'd a large Poultice of Onions, Leeks, &c. for procuring the Fall of an Eschar. — If nothing else be in View, but removing the Eschar, warm Basilicon, with a little boiling Oil of Turpentine, with the following Cataplasm, over all will be ſufficient. Take Wheat-Flower four Ounces, roasted Figs, and Honey, à Q. S. M. ſome order Basilicon, with Oil of white Lilies, Oil of Eggs, two Ounces, Mucilage of Quince-Seeds one Ounce M. F.

*Heurnius*, Take Oil of Vitriol, Hypericon, Nigell à Pt. Eq. the Part at every Dressing is

to be done over with a Feather, dipt in this, and a large soft Cataplasm of Elder-Flowers, and Dock-Leaves over all.

*Theodoric and Guido, Tract. 6. Doct. i i. de Curatione Rupturæ p. 248.* tho' they were ful-  
ly satisfy'd, that a Cicatrix made by an Actual  
Cautery, was the most secure Way of retain-  
ing; yet they comply'd with their Patients,  
who dreaded that Way, and us'd the Potential  
Cautery, commonly call'd a *Caustick*, the best  
of which is made of *Calx Viva*, and *Lixiv. Sapon.* now-a-days known to every Apprentice-  
Boy, and Nurses, &c. *Guido* temper'd his  
with *Otium*, and other Defensives, according  
to the Quantity apply'd, and the Circumstan-  
ces of the Patient. But he always took Care  
never to apply a *Caustick*, until he had suffici-  
ently prepar'd his Patient for it, by previous  
Purging, and proper Diet, in both which he  
was most exact, and so cautious was he, be-  
fore he us'd the *Caustick*, that he strictly en-  
join'd 'em to lie a Bed, on their Back, so the  
Intestine being sufficiently emptied, and the  
Parts well replac'd, he, after Shaving, and  
Marking, apply'd a Plaister, with a sufficient  
Hole for the *Caustick*, and so prudently defend-  
ed the Parts, that he made himself Master of  
the *Caustick*, so that it did not spread beyond  
the Bounds he intended.—This Eschar, with  
the common Way of Dressing, fell off in a-  
bout a Week. If he did not find it thick e-  
nough, he generally renew'd the *Caustick*, ta-  
king great Care it did not reach the Sperma-  
ticks, and having procur'd the Fall of this; as  
he

he did of the former Eschar, which requires still more Care than the first, he cleans'd, incarnated, and cur'd it, as other Wounds ; but even when heal'd, he wou'd not suffer 'em to go Abroad without a Trus. — Mr. Peter, says he, cur'd Thirty in my Presence, whom he allow'd to walk about, on Purpose to forget the Pain of the *Caustick*, which I do by no Means approve of. — He took eight Weeks to perform his Cures, which I did in four or five. — In Curing Monsieur *Lewis Brisac* of *Vienne* in *Dauphine*, I us'd a curv'd Actual Cautery at every Dressing, so did Mr. Peter after me, which succeeded ; and indeed, the Difficulty is sometimes so great, that we ought to help with every Thing that will do so ; and nothing being able to do it more effectually than the Actual Cautery, which is scarce felt, if touch'd with Caution, *Præsertim*, says he, *quia Æschara defendit quod Cauterium non sentitur : Duntaxat quod fiat caute quod patiens non videat.* — If the Pain be very great, anoint with Oil of Roses. — If the *Scrotum* be inflam'd, with Tension, and much Pain, use Poultices of Mallows and Bran, with *Althæa*-Roots, Linseeds, and the like. — If a Flux of Blood, use my red Powder, with Whites of Eggs, or Vitriol. — If Constipated, give Cassia, Clysters, or Suppositories. — If a Loose-ness, give Astringent Troches, and the like.

*Severinus* in his *Chirurgia Trimembris* p. 126. tells us, That the most approv'd, and the safest *Caustick*, is that made of the Lixive of Potash, with Quick-Lime, boil'd up to a proper Consi-

stence, as describ'd in the *Euonymi Thesaurus*, and by *Gourmelæus*, *Bartholomeus Maggius*, *Parrey*, *Heurnius*, &c. which is no other but the common *Caustick* of the Shops, as may be seen in all our Dispensatories; and for further Security, they order the same *Caustick* to be repeated, even to the *Os Pubis*, but forbid using it if there be an Adhesion.

To adduce here all the Authors, who have taught the Way of securing the Parts when repon'd in *Ruptures*, wou'd be ridiculous: I hope then, it will be enough for me, to have shewn, That securing by *Causticks*, is no new Method, but deriv'd to us from the earliest Antiquity.—That whether the Cicatrix was made by an Actual, or Potential Cautery, the Intention was the same, viz. so to harden and constringe that Part over the Rings of the Abdominal Muscles, as if it were callous, and thereby obstruct, and hinder the Caul, or Intestine, from falling into the *Scrotum*, as the Learn'd *Fienus* has hinted to us, in cap. 6. of his Way of Curing *Ruptures* by *Causticks*, *Hæ ergo unctiones ea ratione curant Herniam quatenus faciunt talem Constrictionem & Coarctationem in Loco, in quem Intestina delabuntur, ut deinceps delabi non possint per Illum.*

From all has been here advanc'd, it seems plain, That those who in the several Ages, have with Care and Judgment apply'd 'emselves to the Study of Nature, and the Healing Art, being sensible, that the first Founders of that Faculty, had taken the very Methods in the

the Cure of *Ruptures*, Nature and Reason had indicated, *viz.* of Reponing the Parts pro-laps'd, by Relaxation, or protruded by Force, and retaining the same in their proper Places, unanimously acquiesc'd in these their Intentions. As they went all one Way to work, so did they generally meet with the same Succes, in the same Cases. Thus they perform'd all cou'd be expected from Men of Skill and Integrity. And however different the several Means made use of to attain these Ends, might at first View appear, they all tended to one and the same, *viz.* a compleat Cure, in curable Cases; but in Cases incurable, they plainly declin'd 'em, at least, told their Patients the Truth, and endeavouring to convince 'em, that a firm and solid Cure was impracticable, render'd their Patients the easier, under what cou'd only be Palliative.

Whatever mighty Matters the absurd Patrons of infallible Cures for all Sorts of *Ruptures* may promise and boast of, they can never effectuate the same, though by Virtue of Magick, Miftery, or the Word *Secret*, they may cheat, or impose on Mankind.

*Helvetius's Siptick*, p. 105. see *Boule Medicamenteuse*, p. 70.

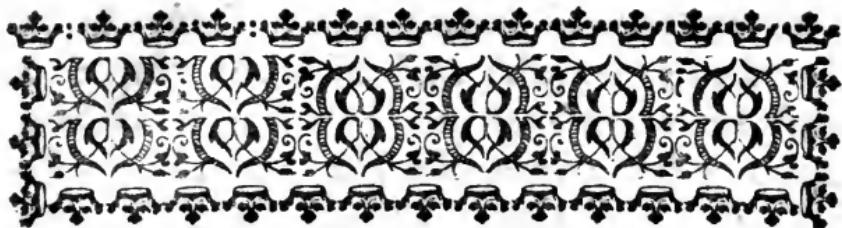
TAKE four Pounds of the Filings of Steel, eight Pounds of Tartar, both in fine Powder, mix 'em exactly, and put 'em in an Earthen-Pan, on which pour as much French Brandy, as will make all of the Thickness of Butter-Milk, stir it well with an Iron Spatula, twice a Day, let it ferment for three Days and Nights together, distil in B. M. with a moderate Fire S. A. till nothing comes of but Phlegm. Take it from the Fire, and with your Hands bruise all the Lumps, and pour as much Brandy as before, put it again into a Cellar, for three Days longer, and then distil as before. Repeat this seven or eight Times, and at the last, let it be as dry as Dough, then grind it on your Marble, and after its well mix'd, form it into Balls of two Ounces each, leave them to be dried in the Air. If the Mass be not soft enough to be conveniently wrought on the Stone, you may moisten it with a little Brandy, or with that Spirit that was distill'd from the Mass.

*The Preparation of the Medicinal Infusion.*

Dissolve one of these Balls in a Quart of good French Brandy, a little warm, or as much Arquebuse Water, mix it exactly, and you may use it instantly, see p. 105. 106. its Virtues are the same with the B—k S—k.

*Insanit Homo, & ex libro, alicunde Doctus, aut in medicamenta collapsus, medicum se factum esse putat. Fævin. De Abus. Med.*

*Quid plura? Si formulæ medicamentorum, ad sanandos ægros sufficerent, Quid Quæso medico opus esset tot impendere labores in Studiis totque addiscendi causa peragrare regiones, & plerunque Substantiam suam consumere? Nonne quivis Idiota, imo etiam subulcus facile in medicum evaderet? Verum in hoc tota difficultas sita est, nimirum ut Doctrina, atque medicamenta, quæ universaliter a viris Doctis proponuntur, particulari unicuique recte applicentur, Solinander.*



T H E  
 Learn'd Dr. MENJOT's  
 LETTER  
 To a F R I E N D,  
 CONCERNING  
 Physick, and Modern Physicians.



*I T H I N* these few Years have been enacted several wise Statutes, for redressing an infinite Number of Abuses that were introduced among the Publick.

*Licentiousness*

Licentiousness among Men of the Sword has been restrain'd, tho' they are the most difficult to rule of all Men. Several new Laws have diminish'd the Quirks of Injustice; tho' there yet remain too many, insomuch, that a poor Client, after a long chargeable Law suit shall be ruin'd at last, tho' he has carried his Cause.

*Etres atteritur longo sufflamine litis.*

*Juvén. Sat. 8.*

But as to Physick, those Gentlemen our Magistrates, seem highly to disparage it, and think it unworthy their Application and Care. That's the Reason it lies unhappily exposed as a Prey to every One, and thereby is corrupted with a Mixture of Quacks, who contrary to the Appointment of God, its Author, have turn'd it into Robbing and Murthering of the Sick. I therefore think my self oblig'd in Point of Honour to forsake the Profession, and renounce the Title of Physician, whose Character, thank God, is not indelible.

I have practis'd it at Paris, the Place of my Nativity, near half an Age. Inter scabien tantam & contagio, lucri. Hor. 1. Epist. 12. Whereby I acquir'd many Friends

Friends. I presume I have answer'd what Hippocrates, in his Epistle to Crateva, says of a disinterested Physician, from a mercenary One, and have imitated Socrates who taught his Phylosophy gratis to the Athenians his Countrymen.

But I am tired with passing any longer for a Colleague, amongst an infinite Number of the Learned, without Learning, Forgetts of Lyes and Physicians of no Value, Job. 13. 4. Most of 'em sprung from the Dregs of the People. We meet with nothing but these greedy Wretches. Agripetes gravissima infamia opus quarentes. Senec. 1. 6 de c. 27.

Rambling up and down the Streets from Morning till Night like miserable Beggars, who by a thousand base and shameful Tricks, screw themselves into Business, and by their sharpening catch at Fame. Penetrant Domus & Captivas ducunt mulierculas. They creep into Houses, and lead Captives silly Women. St. Paul 2. ad Tim. c. 3. v. 6. But what seems incredible, except to those who are Eye Witnesses to it, is, That Horse Doctors, Lay Brothers of all Orders and Colours, Footmen out of Place, Musicians, Dancing Masters, Mechanicks, and other People of the like Stamp, have the

the Front to set up for Physicians, as if the Seat of our Judges were Places for Porters and Chairmen, to judge and determine the most important and intricate Causes. There are even down to our Servant-Maids, who are no sooner out of Place, but they undertake to prescribe for the Sick, to sell their Specificks, their Elixirs, and such silly trifling Secrets. Some perhaps will think to check these Complaints, by saying, That it is reasonable to let our French have the Liberty of getting their Livelihoood. But suppose this Maxim were allow'd, as Things are now, and that it was consistent with the Publick Good: Yet the City of Paris, which in other Things is so well Govern'd, ought not to allow that such Quacks of all Tribes, all Languages, and all Nations should come on our Stage and act the Physician, pick our Peoples Pockets, and play upon the Simplicity of our Parisians.

Tros Rutulus ve fuat. Nullo discrimine --  
habetur. Virg. 10. Aneid.

These crafty Knaves most impudently promise to dissolve the Stone in the Kidneys and Bladder, to cure knotted and hereditary Gouts, inveterate Consumptions, confirm'd Dropsies, form'd Cancers, habitual and natural Follies; and in Behalf of the Ladies, whose

whose Faces are pitted with the Small-Pox, to render it as fair, plump, and smooth, as it was at first. They even pretend to wash the Blackmoor white, contrary to this Text of Scripture. An mutare potest Æthiops pellem suam. Can the Æthiopian change his Colour. Deut. 13.

In the mean time these ignorant and presumptuous People, compound with the Sick for large Sums, and exact the greatest Part before Hand, which they never return, tho' the Sick were to die the very next Day they come into their Hands, and if they survive, they are more injur'd than eas'd. And what is more astonishing, is, that not only the simple Cit, but also several of our first Quality, who value themselves upon their Wit, run head-long like Idiots into the Trap laid by these Impostors; which may be call'd the Rocks on which they no sooner split, but they are pyrated by them; which verifies the Saying of the illustrious Gombault.

Le Peuple fut toujours un Sot  
Et bien des Grands sont Populaires.

It is then with just Reason that Parents, who make any tolerable Figure in the World, forbid their Children's applying themselves

to Physick, since its Profession at this time, is run down to such a Degree, that a Man of Courage and Birth is abash'd of the Title of Doctor, and that the People,

**Centum Medicos curto centusse licetur.**

Pers. Sat. 5.

That Time is no more, when Pætus, in his Letter to Artaxerxes testify'd for Physick, that it was a Science well becoming the Gods.

It were to be wish'd, that our supreme Powers wou'd by their Prudence and Authority. Oves ab hircis segregare. Divide the Sheep from the Goats. St. Mat. 25. 32. But alas! The reforming so pernicious a Disorder, is more to be wish'd than hop'd; for the fear of Death causes People to catch at all promiscuously, as it has been observ'd of the Pagans with their false Gods. In orbe Deos fecit timor.

In the mean time, it very often happens, that timorous and imprudent Sick procure Death to themselves. by the Measures they take to avoid it, and become their own Murderers, by Effect of their weak Discernment. However, Sir, you may very well judge that this Discourse aims, neither nigh, nor at a distance;

distance, neither directly nor indirectly, at those few real Physicians, who have had a liberal Education, and who ought to be look'd upon by Men of Equity and Judgment like, (velut reliquias quæ salvæ factæ sunt) the Remnant to be sav'd. S. Paul ad Rom: 12. 5. I know not if my Works have had so good Success at Home or Abroad, as to deserve admittance among those distinguish'd Physicians: However Messieurs Van Benning and Borel, Embassadors from Holland, did me the Honour some Years ago, to offer me from the States, a Professor's Chair in Physick at Leyden, upon what Conditions I pleased; for which I shall ever remain oblig'd to their High Mightinesses: But the Love of my Country was the only Reason that mov'd me against this Transmigration; and as I had had the good Fortune to be born, and to live hitherto a Subject of his Majesty, I could never resolve to die otherwise.

I conclude, Sir, with acquainting you, That tho' I have renounc'd the Practice of Physick; yet I do not design to forsake the Study of it, tho' I am above seventy, since I shall have more Leisure to publish from time to time some new Works, which I shall submit to the Judgment of the Learned; especially of that small handful of Orthodox Physicians, that are scatter'd among the Physick-ing

ing Rabble, like a little good Seed, among abundance of Tares, or like the Elect in the World among the Wicked.

I am

Sir,

This Letter was printed at Paris in 1691, by Mr. Bernier, Physician, in his Supplement to his Book of Essays on Phy-sick.



## POSTSCRIPT.

I flatter'd myself I had done with the *Rupture* Story ; so about three Weeks ago, desir'd the same to be published, without loss of Time : But a printed Order (deliver'd at the *Navy-Office*, directing all the Surgeons of His Majesty's Ships, to practise a pretended effectual Remedy, laid before the Lords of the *Admiralty* by Dr. *Littlejohn*, &c.) falling into my Hands, I could not without being wanting to myself, and to that Regard I owe to Truth, but acquaint the Publick with what consists with my proper Knowledge ; in an Affair, wherein I was embark'd.

About 12 or 13 Months ago, Mrs. *Boules* before mention'd, handed about part of Her Husband's Secret for *Ruptures*, printed on a loose half Sheet.

About 3 Months ago, Dr. *W—d* knowing this Book was in the Press, told me, that at one Dr. *Littlejohn*'s Desire he had sollicited some of the Board of Ad—lty, particularly Sir *J. J--gs*, about a certain Secret for *Ruptures*, he was to lay before that Board. I smilingly answer'd, I could not believe that Gentleman would be so rash as to expose himself in such an Affair, because that very Secret had been given about for many Months past, and produced the very printed half Sheet I had

3 Months before.—This is the very same, said he, with Dr. Littlejohn's.

Whether it is so, or not: Let the discerning disinterested Reader judge.

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*Admiralty-Office,*  
27th Jan. 1727.

GENTLEMEN,

WHereas Doctor *Littlejohn*, who hath served as *Physician* in His Majesty's Fleet, hath proposed a Method for the more effectual Cure of such *Seamen* belonging to the *Navy* as may have *Ruptures*, and We having referr'd the same to the Consideration of Doctor *Mead* and Dr. *Freind*, and to Mr. *Palmer* and Mr. *Chiselden*, two eminent Chyrurgeons, who have reported to us their Opinion; That the Methods proposed by Doctor *Littlejohn* are very safe, and will be of good Service to the Purpose intended, especially, in the Cure of recent *Ruptures*; and that therefore they think, it may be very beneficial in His Majesty's *Navy*. We send you herewith a Copy of the aforesaid Proposition, and desire and direct you to cause the same to be put in Practice on Board His Majesty's Ships, which now are, or shall from Time to Time be employed at Sea. We are

Your Affectionate Friends,

J. Jennings,  
J. Cockburne,  
W. Chetwynd,  
C. Wager.

THE Right Honourable the *Lords Commissioners* of the ADMIRALTY, having signify'd their Pleasure, that an effectual Method for Cure of *Ruptures* should be laid before them, in order to be made publick for the Service of the *Navy*.

In Obedience, therefore, to their *Lordships* Command, the said Method is here humbly offer'd by *Alexander Littlejohn, M. D.* formerly *Physician to the Fleet*.

Although the *Surgeons* of the *Navy* are presumed to be acquainted with the Nature and Causes of *Ruptures*, still a Remedy for such unhappy Accidents being greatly wanted, a Method of Cure is therefore proposed, which, if duly followed, will prove successful.

The first Intention for Cure of *Ruptures*, is the Reduictior or Replacing of the Parts that are fallen from their natural Situation; In Cases where there is no Adhesion of the Parts, and the Reduction, notwithstanding, proves difficult, then the following Prescriptions are to be apply'd.

---

The *True and Genuine RECEIPT* of that Rare Secret of Curing *Ruptures*, as Practised for many Years by Doctor BOLES and his Wife.

1. THE Specifick Powder is compos'd of the Roots of *Solomon-Seal* 7 Ounces; fine Secctrina Aloes 1 Ounce; Jallop 1 Ounce; after they are powdered seperately and well sifted,

then mix them well in a Mortar, adding half an Ounce of fine Sugar, in which drop half a Dram of the chymical Oil of Cinnamon; incorporate it well in a Mortar, then mix the above Powders by Degrees till all are well mixed together, then put it in a close Tin Box for use, the Dose is 20 Grains, 25 to 30, augment or diminish the Dose according to the Age, Sex, and Constitution of the Party.

2. The Plaister is composed of *Occicrosia* and *Paracelsus*, of each equal Quantity.

3. The Fomentation is composed of *John's Wort*, *Centaury*, *Wormwood*, *Rosemary Flowers*, *Mellelot Flowers*, *Red Rose Leaves*, of each a handful; boil all these in three Quarts of Water, till one Third is consumed, then put in a Quart of Claret, boil it all together for half an Hour slowly, then strain it for Use.

4. The Decoction is composed of 6 Ounces of Mustard Seed, in 2 Quarts of Water, boil it an Hour, then strain it off for Use.

5. A Cataplasm, or Pultice, composed of the Roots of *White Lillies*, and *stinking Hemlock*, of each equal Quantity, boil them over a slow Fire till the Water is consumed, and the Roots tender, then beat them in a Mortar to a Pap, and put it up for Use.

6. The Caustick, is the best Oil of Vitriol.

7. The Silver Caustick for dressing.

8. Plaister of Adhermiam after the Cure for strengthning the Part.

℞ Herb. *Absinthii Roman.*  
*Centaurii minoris,*  
*Meliloti,*  
*Hyperici,*  
 Flor. *Rosarum rubrarum,*  
*Anthos ana Mj.*

Coque in Aque fontanae Libris sex ad Libras quatuor, et adde Vini rubri Libras duas, tum coque leniter per Horam, ut fiat Colatura pro Fotu calidissimo, Herniae, et Pubis regioni adhibendo, cum Stuphis lanatis alternatim applicatis.

℞ Sem. *Sinapi* 3 vi.

Coque per Horam, in Aque fontanae Libris quatuor, fiat Colatura, Usurpetur ut supra.

℞ Rad. *Liliorum alborum,*  
*Cicutae ana Partes eequales.*

Incisis et contusis, coq. s. a. in Aque fontanae q. s. ut fiat Cataplasma, Herniae, calide applicandum.

℞ Rad. *Polygonari* 3 vii.  
*Falappa,*  
*Aloes Succotrinæ ana* 3 i.

Pulver. subtil. et gradatim misce, in Mortar. marm. sub Finem addendo, Ol. Cinnamom. gut. xxx. cum Sachar. alb. 3 ss. m. f. pulvis, Dosis a 3 ss. ad 3 ij sumenda mane in Fuscule avenaceo, vel in Bolo, cum Electuarii lenitivi q. s.

I thought

I thought to have plac'd these Directions in Mrs. B——'s, over against those in Dr. L——n's Paper, after the manner of the Receipt in the preceeding Page ; but, to save trouble, I beg leave to refer the curious Reader to p. 75, 76. where he'll find the Directions fuller, plainer, and less dangerous.

The laxitive Powder is to be given, in the Beginning of the Cure, for eight or ten Days following, and afterwards must be continued for the Space of six or eight Weeks, by repeating the same twice or thrice a Week, which will greatly contribute to the Cure ; It is to be given also in all Cases, where the external Applications are requisite, in order to facilitate the Reduction of the Parts.

When the Rupture is compleatly reduc'd, then a Caustick is to be apply'd above the *Os Pubis*, at the Perforations for the Passage of the Spermatick Vessels, the strongest *Ol. Vitriol.* is the Caustick here recommended : It is to be rubb'd in upon the Part in such a Quantity as may penetrate quite thro' the *Cutis* ; for the deeper the Escar is made, with Safety, the more effectually it will answer the End desired.

The Application may be repeated for two or three Days following, in order to carry it deep enough, observing withal, to cut superficially into the Escar, that the *Ol. Vitriol.* may the better penetrate ; the Escar is to be dress'd with the *Empl. Paracel.* and *Oxycroc.* of each equal Parts, spread thin on Leather ; this Plaister alone will be sufficient to separate the Escar and Cicatrize the

the Part; If any fungous Excrecence appear, it is to be remov'd by frequent touching with the Silver Caustick.

While the Cure is performing the Rupture must carefully be kept up by fit Compresses of Linnen, together with a Roller of thin Flannel, of convenient Length and Breadth for that Purpose.

After the Part is healed up, the *Empl. ad Herniam* is to be applied thereon, with a proper Truss or Bandage to support the Part, till such Time as the Cicatrix becomes sufficiently hard and callous to supply the Want of an artificial Truss.

A due Regard must be had, during the Cure, to the Regimen of the Patient; much Rest especially in Bed, together with a thin Diet, of easy Digestion, are requisite; but Greens, fat Meat of any Kind, Milk, or whatever may occasion Wind or Costiveness, are to be avoided.

METHINKS the Doctor's Design too plain to need a Commentary. The Bulk of this mighty Performance consists in turning Mrs. B—'s Receipt (*manq;* as it is, for the Comfry Roots, the main Ingredient, is left out) into a sort of *Latin* Form. The Artists in their respective Ways will readily perceive, the *Pharmaceutical* Part to be injudicious, the *Chirurgical* Part dangerous, and the dietical r——fly odd.

As to the 1st, Let the Gentlemen of the *Apothecaries Hall* be Judges, Whether *Absynth. Rom.* be proper in Fomentations? and if common *Abs.* be not what's intended in the *Recipe.* Whether 4 Grains of *Jalap* be a sufficient purging Dose for an able-bodied Seaman?----Whether *Sem. Sinap.* will admit of an Hour's boiling? &c.

As to the 2d, Whether the strongest Oil of Vitriol can be rubb'd in upon that Part, (over the Breach through which the Spermaticks pass) in such a Quantity as to penetrate quite through the *Cutis*? And whether the Application of the said Oil, is to be repeated for three Days following, in order to carry it deep enough? And whether cutting into the Eschar that the said Oil may the better penetrate, be either according to the *Recipe* he takes it from, or according to the Rules of Practice, or according to Art, I most humbly submit to the Gentlemen of the *Surgeons Hall*.

As to the 3d, Whether *Greens* and *Milk* are such dangerous Food at Sea, I leave to all Seafaring judicious People? I'll only say, that however improper Greens and Milk may be to Ruptur'd People ashore; if nothing else forbids 'em at *Sea*, than the Doctor's Orders; Ruptur'd Sailors need not be much afraid of great Damage from Surfeits of Greens and Milk at Sea; unless this Ingenuous Doctor has discover'd a new Way of Cultivating (for this seems a fruitful Age for new and amazing Discoveries) Greens, where-with to feed Cows on Board of every one of His Majesty's Ships for Milk for his numerous Seamen, as he has lately done a *New Method for curing Sailors Ruptures*, to the great Honour of his Profession. Upon the whole, it appears to me, that the Doctor never us'd *Ol. Vitrioli*, nor ever saw it us'd that Way, else he had given other Directions. — *Veritas odium parit.*







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